

On Top Of The News Email:news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:+297 582-7800 Tuesday, February 18, 2014



A demonstrator show the palm of her hands that reads in Spanish "Peace" during a protest in Caracas, Venezuela. Students marched on Monday to Venezuela's telecom regulator to demand it lift all restrictions on the media's coverage of the unfolding political crisis. (AP Photo/Fernando Llano)

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Little optimism as Iranian nuclear talks reconvene

STEVEN ERLANGER

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VIENNA - Talks with Iran over a permanent agreement on its nuclear program begin Tuesday in Vienna, but there is little immediate optimism over a negotiation that is expected to last up to a year.

Even Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, said Monday in Tehran that "the nuclear negotiations will lead nowhere," expressing his well-known mistrust of the motives of the United States and its allies, a mistrust reciprocated in the U.S. Congress.

At the same time, the ayatollah said that "Iran will not breach what it has started" and that he supported the negotiating effort, however dismal the prospects for success.

President Barack Obama is more optimistic, putting the chances at 50 percent. But a failure of these talks would also present both the United States and Iran with more difficult choices, including the possible use of military means, which neither side wants.

The issues for a permanent deal are complex, including the level of Iran's enrichment of uranium and the fate of the Fordo enrichment plant built deep in a mountain; Iran's reactor at Arak, which will produce plutonium; and Iran's willingness to let international inspectors visit a suspected nuclear-trigger test site at Parchin, a restricted military facility.

Senior Western diplomats involved in the talks say that this round, expected to last three days, will be spent largely on how to organize the negotiations - what working groups, what level of technical expertise, what to discuss and in what order, how often to meet.

Iran and six major powers - the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council plus Germany, the so-called P5-plus-one group led by Catherine Ashton, the European Union's foreign policy chief - agreed last November on a six-month, renewable deal limiting Iran's nuclear program to buy time for these talks.

The temporary agreement, implemented in January, obliged Iran to stop enriching uranium to high levels and severely reduce its stockpile of near-weapons-grade uranium in return for the lifting of some economic sanctions, including allowing access to \$4.2 billion in Iranian cash frozen in foreign banks.

Though Iran is in breach of Security Council resolutions demanding that it halt enrichment entirely - at least until it comes into full compliance with the International Atomic Energy Agency, the U.N. monitor of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty - senior Western officials acknowledge that a final deal would continue to allow Iran to enrich, but only up to a certain level and under strict monitoring.

Iran denies having any military goals. But its previous level of enrichment, combined with its past efforts to hide enrichment facilities and build them deep into the ground where bombers would have a hard time penetrating, its work on the plutonium-producing reactor and its effort to develop long-range missiles capable of carrying a nuclear warhead, have convinced the West, Israel and Iran's Arab neighbors that Tehran was seeking nuclear weapons capability.

The negotiations are intended to ensure that Iran is kept far enough away from achieving that capability that any effort to "break out" and race to construct a nuclear device would be detectable with at least six months' notice. That is why the negotiations will at some point focus intensively on the number and sophistication of Iran's centrifuges - the machines that enrich uranium - and how they are inspected. □

Venezuela boots US officials

JOSHUA GOODMAN

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela

(AP) — President Nicolas Maduro's government on Monday gave three U.S. Embassy officials 48 hours to leave the country, accusing the Obama administration of siding with student protesters who Venezuela accuses of inciting violence.

The announcement by Foreign Minister Elias Jaua came amid fears that

anti-government demonstrations, and about the government's attempts to block peaceful protests.

Secretary of State John Kerry said Saturday that Lopez's arrest would have a "chilling effect" on Venezuelans' right to free expression.

More than 1,000 students, who have spent the past week on the streets alternating between peaceful protests by day and battles with police at night,

Maduro accuses Lopez of being behind the violence and the head of a "fascist" plot to overthrow him two months after his party's candidates won mayoral elections by a landslide. In a rally with thousands of supporters Saturday Maduro dared Lopez, a Harvard-trained former mayor, to turn himself in after a court ordered his arrest on charges ranging from vandalism of public property to homicide.



A demonstrator holds up a sign that reads in Spanish "There is no road to peace. Peace is the way. Awake Venezuela" in front of a line of National Bolivarian Guards dressed in riot gear, in Caracas, Venezuela. Students marched on Monday to Venezuela's telecom regulator to demand it lift all restrictions on the media's coverage of the unfolding political crisis.

(AP Photo/Fernando Llano)

renewed clashes could erupt Tuesday when both pro- and anti-government activists have announced plans for demonstrations in the capital.

Foreign Minister Elias Jaua said that the senior U.S. consular officers were trying to infiltrate Venezuelan universities, the hotbed of the recent unrest, under the cover of doing visa outreach. Repeating charges by Maduro, who has expelled American diplomats twice before, Jaua said that the U.S. is conspiring with opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez and student activists in an attempt to oust the socialist president.

The U.S. has denied the charges but is expressing concern about rising violence that led to three deaths last week during

marched on Monday to Venezuela's telecommunications regulator to demand it lift all restrictions on the news media's coverage of the unfolding political crisis. There were no reports of new disturbances. Several journalists were harassed and detained, and Colombia's news channel NTN24 was taken off cable television, while covering protests Wednesday that ended in a battle between student demonstrators and security forces backed by armed pro-government militias.

Three people were killed — two students and a pro-government demonstrator. News videos and photographs taken at the time indicate that at least one of the students was killed when militias fired directly at protesters.

Lopez said that he doesn't fear going to jail to defend his beliefs. In a video message Sunday, he called on supporters to march with him in white shirts to the Interior Ministry, where he'll deliver a petition demanding the government protect citizens' rights to peacefully protest.

"I haven't committed any crime," said Lopez, who hasn't been seen in public since a Wednesday night news conference after the bloodshed. "If there is a decision to legally throw me in jail I'll submit myself to this persecution."

To avoid another violent clash, Lopez aides on Monday rerouted their upcoming protest away from the central plaza in Caracas where a competing march of pro-government oil workers will take place. □

White House: Stimulus bill was good for economy

DARLENE SUPERVILLE

Associated Press

RANCHO MIRAGE, California (AP) — The costly \$787 billion spending bill that President Barack Obama signed into law soon after taking office boosted the economy and helped avoid another Great Depression, the White House said in a status report on Monday's fifth anniversary of the law's enactment.

Republican leaders in Congress took note of the anniversary, too, but argued that the bill spent too much for too little in return.

White House economic adviser Jason Furman said the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act made other targeted investments that will pay dividends for years to come.

By itself, the stimulus bill saved or created an average of 1.6 million jobs a year for four years through the end of 2012, Furman said in a White House blog post. Half of the total fiscal support for the economy, or about \$689 billion, from the recovery act and subsequent measures was in the form of tax cuts directed mostly at families. The remainder was spent on such things as rebuilding roads and bridges, preventing teacher layoffs and providing temporary help for people who lost their jobs or needed other assistance because of the poor economy. The report said recovery act spending will have a positive effect on long-run growth, boost the economy's potential output and ultimately offset much of the law's initial cost.

More than 40,000 miles (64,371 kilometers) of roads and more than 2,700 bridges have been upgraded, nearly 700 drinking water systems serving more than 48 million people have been brought into compliance with federal clean water standards and high-speed Internet was introduced to about 20,000 community institutions.

"While these figures are substantial, they still nevertheless understate the full magnitude of the administration's response to the cri-

sis," Furman wrote.

He noted that the report focused solely on the effects of fiscal legislation. It did not evaluate other administration policies that aided the recovery, such as stabilizing the financial system, rescuing the auto industry and supporting the housing sector. Republicans were in less of a mood to celebrate.

"The 'stimulus' has turned

out to be a classic case of big promises and big spending with little results," House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, said in a written statement. "Five years and hundreds of billions of dollars later, millions of families are still asking 'Where are the jobs?'" Republican Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell argued that Obama could put the na-

tion's finances on a more solid footing and create jobs by taking steps to roll back regulations and finally approve the Keystone XL pipeline project from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico. "Five years later, the stimulus is no success to celebrate," said McConnell. "It is a tragedy to lament," Furman said the economy is "undoubtedly in a stronger position"

because it has grown for 11 straight months, although not at a pace that would be considered robust. Businesses have also added 8.5 million jobs since early 2010. Obama initially sold the stimulus as an investment that would produce a dramatic decrease in unemployment that ultimately did not materialize.

Unemployment remains high, at 6.6 percent in January, though it has fallen considerably since reaching double-digit highs early in Obama's administration. Some of the decline, however, is due to people dropping out of the workforce. People aren't considered unemployed if they aren't looking for work.

"While far more work remains to ensure that the economy provides opportunity for every American, there can be no question that President Obama's actions to date have laid the groundwork for stronger, more sustainable economic growth in the years ahead," Furman said. Obama planned to discuss the economy Tuesday at a suburban Washington distribution center for the Safeway grocery store chain. On Wednesday, Vice President Joe Biden will mark the recovery act's fifth anniversary during a visit to America's Central Port in Granite City, Illinois. □



This Feb. 17, 2009 file photo shows President Barack Obama picking up the first pen to sign the economic stimulus bill during a ceremony in the Museum of Nature and Science in Denver. The White House says a costly spending bill President Barack Obama signed into law five years ago Monday was good for the economy and helped the U.S. avoid another Great Depression.

(AP Photo/David Zalubowski)

Penn State finds its new president at Florida State

RICHARD A. OPPEL Jr
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Eric J. Barron, the president of Florida State University and a nationally known climatologist, was named Monday as the president of Penn State University, which has spent the past year trying to find a new leader in the wake of the 2011 Jerry Sandusky child sex-abuse scandal.

In selecting Barron, a former professor and dean at Penn State, the university will get an effective fundraiser who worked to widen FSU's donor base, who sought to mend fences with legendary football coach Bobby Bowden after his firing in 2009, and

who worked to improve the finances of the school's athletic department. Barron has been praised for his efforts to boost FSU's research standing; at the same time, he has shown he is comfortable running a school where football is a defining force.

Barron, 62, who is scheduled to take over at Penn State by May, will receive salary and other compensation that could total \$6 million over the five years of his contract. He replaces Rodney A. Erickson, who had been Penn State's provost and executive vice president before he was appointed president after the Sandusky scandal

led to the resignations of Graham B. Spanier, the former president, and Joe Paterno, the football coach. Paterno died in 2012, and Spanier and two other former high-ranking Penn State officials are facing trial on charges that they were part of a cover-up related to the scandal. Sandusky, a longtime top assistant to Paterno, was convicted of child sexual abuse and sentenced to 30 to 60 years in prison. The university's board of trustees has agreed to pay about \$60 million to settle claims made by Sandusky's victims.

The specter of the Sandusky scandal, and how

the university handled it, was a major topic at the news conference after Barron's selection Monday at a Penn State board of trustees meeting.

When asked how the university would handle Paterno's legacy, Barron said, "My feeling is, the wisest answer is to tell you to give me time, OK?"

He added: "I watched all of his great strengths as a faculty member and as a dean and as someone who loves this institution, but in my view whatever we do, we have to make sure that we do it with a high sense of dignity and honor. And sometimes that takes time." □

Man says Bulger framed him, seeks new trial

DENISE LAVOIE

AP Legal Affairs Writer

BOSTON (AP) — A man who has spent more than three decades in prison for murder is asking for a new trial,

corrupt FBI agent not to tell authorities he saw Weichel at a bar shortly before Robert LaMonica was fatally shot in 1980. Weichel's lawyers say that alibi could have made a big differ-

do it," said Boston attorney Michael Ricciuti, a former federal prosecutor whose firm has been working with the New England Innocence Project and is representing Weichel for free.

"It's clear that there is not proof beyond a reasonable doubt. They can say a jury convicted him — that is factually true — but the standard is if a jury had all the evidence we have now, would it make a difference? There is no way you can look at that and say let's indict Weichel. It just doesn't make any sense."

Ricciuti said Flemmi gave the information to prosecutors last February as they were preparing for Bulger's racketeering trial. Flemmi was a key witness against Bulger, who was convicted of playing a role in 11 murders and sentenced to life in prison, was allegedly the head of Boston's Winter Hill Gang and simultaneously providing information to the FBI on the New England Mafia and other criminals.

According to an excerpt from a letter Weichel's lawyers received from a prosecutor, Flemmi said he was at former FBI Agent John Connolly Jr.'s home when Bulger told Connolly "don't get involved" in the Weichel murder case. Flemmi says Bulger knew Connolly had seen Weichel in a Boston bar at about 12:15 a.m., around the time prosecutors believe LaMonica was shot outside his Braintree apartment.

In response to a separate request from Weichel's lawyers, Braintree police



Fred Weichel, serving a life sentence for a 1980 murder, sits in Middlesex Superior Court in Cambridge, Mass., during a hearing to request a new trial based on a new evidence. Weichel, who has spent more than three decades in prison, is seeking a new trial in February 2014, saying he has corroboration for his claim that convicted gangster James "Whitey" Bulger framed him.

(AP Photo/Julia Malakie)

claiming he has corroboration for his claim that gangster James "Whitey" Bulger framed him.

Fred Weichel says Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi told federal prosecutors last year that Bulger urged a

ence at his 1981 trial.

Weichel, now 62, also says records turned over by Braintree police in 2010 suggest that someone else had been identified as a possible suspect.

"The bottom line is he didn't

More tests needed for NYC designer

NEW YORK (AP) — A designer who did costumes for such Broadway shows as "Swing," "Promises, Promises" and "Evita" died after he apparently fell into the Hudson River while trying to board his boat in Manhattan, police said.

The New York City medical examiner's office said Monday that more tests are needed to pinpoint the cause of 55-year-old Michele Savoia's death. Police divers recovered his

body in the icy waters off Chelsea Piers on Sunday afternoon.

He was last seen leaving the Marquee nightclub around 4 a.m. Thursday, police said.

The New York Times reported that Savoia, though not widely known in the fashion world, enjoyed a following among fellow aficionados of the stylish 1930s and '40s. The New York Police Department issued a photo that showed Savoia posing

in a big fur coat, rakish hat, black vest and pinstriped pants.

The Daily News reported that Savoia's client list included Robert DeNiro, Mickey Rourke and Chris Noth. He designed costumes for the "Evita" revival starring Ricky Martin.

"He could at times be a wild man," said a close friend, Kevin James Dalton. "You never knew what he was going to do. He'd always surprise you." □

Q&A ON THE NEWS

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Q: I have been told that European credit cards do not use the magnetic strips that are used on American credit cards. They are more secure. What do they use and why don't we use them here?

-- Judy Olderman, Brookhaven, Ga.

A: Cards issued in Europe, Asia and other parts of the world are embedded with a microchip that helps validate transactions and provides extra security.

These cards, known as EMV (Europay, MasterCard and Visa), must be inserted into a reader equipped with a slot, and a personal identification number (PIN) must be entered to complete the transaction, compared to the swipe-and-sign method.

EMV technology has been used in Europe since 1992, and the U.S. is the last "major market" to use the swipe-and-sign method, The Wall Street Journal reported. Cost is one of the reasons why U.S. retailers and companies haven't switched to EMV cards, but that could change next year. American Express,

Discover, MasterCard and Visa have set an October 2015 deadline for companies to switch to EMV cards, a move that could cost up to \$8 billion, according to First Data Corp.

Swipe-and-sign machines will have to be replaced with new credit card readers that cost up to \$1,000 each, and about 510 million EMV credit cards will have to be issued at a cost of about \$1.25 to \$2.50 each.

Q: I recently pulled my credit report and noticed that the Social Security Administration was one of the entities that requested my credit report. Why would the SSA request my credit information?

-- Edward Kelly, Grayson, Ga.

A: The Social Security Administration uses Experian, one of the three major credit bureaus, to help verify identities when people create accounts on socialsecurity.gov. "We will not share your Social Security number with Experian. Experian will only keep the information we share for the period of time required for federal laws, regulations, or guidelines," the SSA states on its website.

It states that the request is known as a "soft inquiry," which does not affect your credit score, "incur any charges related to them" and is hidden from lenders. Experian "will generally" remove the soft inquiry from your credit report after 25 months. It doesn't appear on credit reports from Equifax or TransUnion, the SSA states. More information can be found at Socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.

Q: If I were to drive from Georgia to Colorado, could I buy the legalized marijuana they're selling there?

-- Eddie Webster, Douglasville, Ga.

A: Adults (21 years old and older) who are not residents of Colorado can buy up to one-quarter ounce of legalized marijuana at a time. State residents with a Colorado ID can buy up to 1 ounce of marijuana. Marijuana has been sold at specially licensed stores in Colorado since New Year's Day. □

In Kansas, right joins left to defeat bill against gays

JOHN ELIGON

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KANSAS CITY, Mo. - A bill that would have allowed individuals to refuse to provide business services to same-sex couples in Kansas because of religious beliefs met a surprising and quick end last week when conservative senators sided with liberal advocates in saying the measure promoted discrimination.

The bill had passed the House, 72-49, last Wednesday, and it appeared it might also easily sail through the Senate. Both chambers are controlled by conservative Republicans who in recent years have passed some of the most conservative legislation in the country, whether on gun control, abortion rights or taxes.

Susan Wagle, a conservative Republican who is president of the Kansas Senate, raised opposition to the House measure, saying she had "grown concerned about the practical impact of the bill" and "my members don't condone discrimination."

Wagle was backed by Sen. Jeff King, the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, who said he would not hold hearings on the House bill. Instead, King said, his committee would hold hearings on the broader topic of religious freedom in Kansas and explore whether the Legislature needed to take any further steps to shore up those protections.

Last year, the Legislature passed the Kansas Preservation of Religious Freedom Act, which protects residents from government burdens that may force them to break their religious beliefs. That bill stemmed in part from concerns that employers could be forced to provide contraception under the federal health care law.

The bill proposed in this year's session seemed to go further in explicitly allowing any individual to raise a religious objection in refusing to recognize same-sex couples or provide them

with services.

"To me, the bill was not as narrowly tailored as it needed to be," King said. "We need razor precision in the language of the bill as to what religious liberties we're trying to protect and how we protect them in a nondiscriminatory fashion." The turn against the bill came as a welcome surprise to civil liberties advocates in Kansas and across the country.

"The public outcry by mid-week had reached such a volume that the Senate just wasn't going to be able to take it up," said Thomas Witt, the executive director of Equality Kansas, a nonprofit group that fights discrimination and strongly opposed the bill.

"I don't know what surprised me more, the level of public involvement in this or the speed with which the Senate president basically ended the prospects for the bill."

The measure's supporters had said the bill was aimed at marriage services and protecting businesses, like photographers and hotels, that did not want to be involved with same-sex marriage ceremonies. But critics said the language of the measure was so broad it would lead to discrimination against gays in Kansas. Opponents included the Kansas Chamber of Commerce, which said the measure could lead to increased costs for businesses.

The chamber took particular exception to a provision in the bill that said if an employee of the government or "other nonreligious entity" objected to providing a service based on religious beliefs, the employer would have to find another employee to fill in or find some other way to provide the service.

Businesses were "not interested in getting into these guessing games as to someone's intent and whether a strongly held religious belief is legitimate or not," said Mike O'Neal, the president of the chamber. □

Behind debt-limit retreat, a GOP eye on retaking Senate

CARL HULSE

JONATHAN MARTIN

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WASHINGTON - Sens. Mitch McConnell and John Cornyn, two Republican

least some Republicans have learned from past defeats.

"They seem to want to be on their best behavior in an election year," said Sen.

could have a significant bearing on the outcome of those elections.

Now, with Republicans giving up on the debt issue, and conservative advoca-



Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., center, holds a meeting in the hallway outside the Senate chamber on Capitol Hill in Washington, during the vote to extend the Treasury's borrowing authority.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

leaders facing primary challenges, knew they would take an immediate political hit from the Republicans' Tea Party wing by voting to clear the way for a debt-limit increase. They also knew that their willingness to cast that vote would enhance their party's chances of gaining a majority in the Senate next year.

"It was not an easy exercise, but it keeps the focus on the issues we want it to be on," said Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., who argued that by putting the debt limit fight behind it last week, his party had robbed Democrats of an opportunity to portray Republicans as reckless. "We dodged a bullet here."

Democrats acknowledge that the Republican retreat on the debt issue was politically wise and represents yet another factor in the mounting concerns over their own Senate prospects. Democrats are counting on bursts of political extremism to wound Republican candidates. The move by McConnell, of Kentucky, and Cornyn, of Texas, showed that at

Richard J. Durbin of Illinois, the No. 2 Senate Democrat.

With their party on offense in its push to capture the Senate, Republicans say they are determined to avoid the mistakes and stumbles that Democrats exploited in 2010 and 2012 to maintain control of the Senate.

Republicans feared that an impasse over the debt limit would have set off a reaction in the financial markets and spurred days, if not weeks, of negative attention on Republicans over their threat of a government default. McConnell and Cornyn chose to expose themselves to primary attacks to fend that off.

Democrats were already contending with serious structural challenges in their fight to hold the Senate, given that they are defending, in the historically difficult sixth year of holding the White House, seven seats in states that Mitt Romney carried in the 2012 presidential election. President Barack Obama remains unpopular in those states, and his standing

cy groups overwhelming some candidates with television ads in crucial states, Democrats are growing nervous about the conditions in which this year's elections will be fought.

"We're faced with a grim reality that more money is being spent earlier in some of these hot races than we've ever seen," Durbin said. "We're spending some, but we can't keep up with them."

With more than eight months to go before Election Day, outside pro-Republican groups, led by the Koch-backed Americans for Prosperity, have spent over \$20 million on commercials in Senate races, a figure that has alarmed leading Democrats.

"This is a serious threat," said David Axelrod, Obama's former chief consultant. "And it would behoove Democratic activists and donors who are whipped up about 2016 to shift their focus, or they may be sitting here in November, looking at a Republican Senate to go along with the House."

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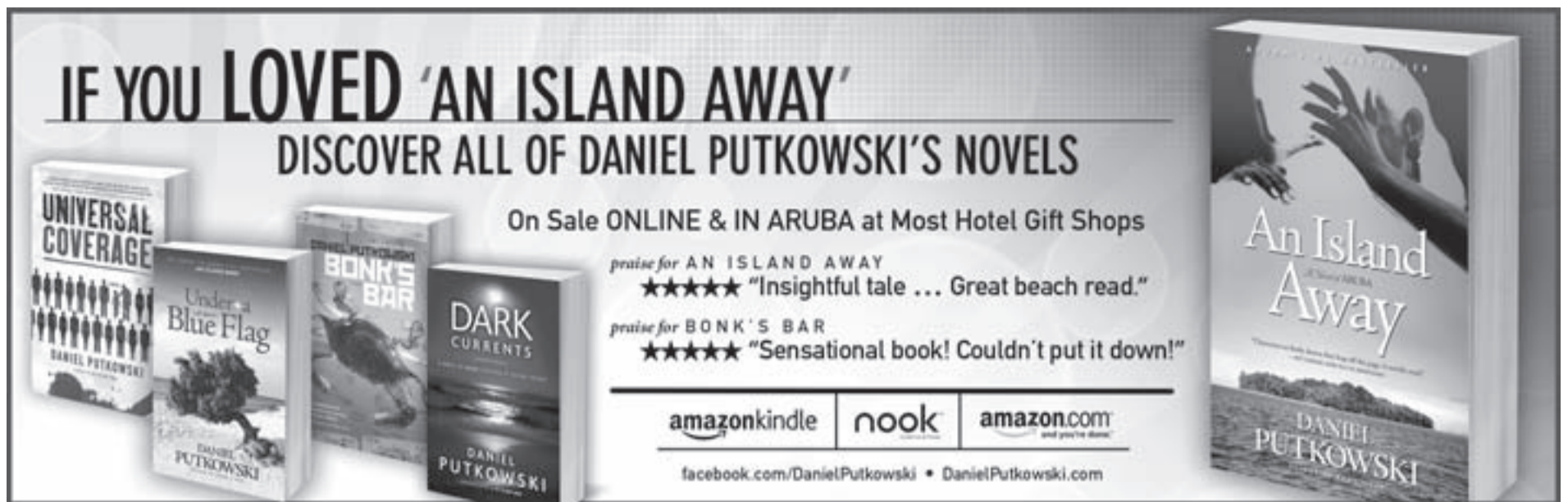
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Over 3 days, US volunteers pack 2 million meals

MIKE HOUSEHOLDER
Associated Press

NOVI, Michigan (AP) — They came from all walks of life — Girl Scouts troops, National Guard units, financial planning offices — to spend three days packing food for thousands of hungry children they'll never meet.

The 2 Million Meals effort, the brainchild of a Detroit-area pastor, concluded Sunday.

The results: 8,810 volunteers put together 2,029,536 meals to be shipped to El Salvador, Haiti and the Philippines. The mixtures of rice, soy, dehydrated vegetables and 21 vitamins and minerals will provide one meal a day for a year

to 5,560 children.

"The truth is, this has been an amazing experience because of the impact it's going to cause in the lives of every child and every person who's going to eat these meals," Brad Powell, who heads up NorthRidge Church, said shortly after the 2 millionth meal was packed Sunday afternoon. "But I think you can see from the energy in this room and all that's going on it's going to change more than just the lives of those who will eat this food."

Powell led an effort three years ago in which 5,000 volunteers packed 1 million meals over the same time period at an area middle school. Convinced more

could and should be done, Powell dreamed of doubling that effort.

That vision became a reality on Sunday, when the magic completed number was displayed on an oversized video display. Volunteers, who worked 11 sets of two-hour shifts from Friday to Sunday, cheered and danced as Gary Glitter's sports-arena anthem "Rock & Roll, Part 2" filled the Suburban Collection Showplace, a convention center in Novi, which donated 65,000 square feet (6,000 sq. meters) of space. Also on board was Feed My Starving Children, a Minnesota nonprofit that sends volunteer-packed meals across the globe. □

Feds want shoe bombing plotter Ahmad to testify

JOHN CHRISTOFFERSEN
Associated Press

NEW HAVEN, Connecticut

(AP) — Federal prosecutors want a man convicted in a failed 2001 shoe bomb plot to bring down an airplane to testify at the sentencing of two British citizens who pleaded guilty in Connecticut to supporting terrorists through websites.

The testimony reflects an effort by prosecutors to show that Babar Ahmad, one of the two men facing sentencing in Connecticut, had an active role in sending recruits to terrorism training camps beyond appealing for support on the websites.

Prosecutors say the witness is expected to testify that Ahmad sent him to Afghanistan to train for violent jihad and that he ultimately moved on from Ahmad and came under the mentorship and training of al-Qaida members who prepared him for the shoe bomb plot.

The man also is expected to testify that he saw nearly two dozen others that Ahmad sent from the United Kingdom to train in Afghanistan, and he would describe camping trips and training exercises that Ahmad organized in England to groom recruits for violent jihad abroad, prosecutors said.

"Ahmad's conduct went beyond cyberspace and included real world effects and consequences flowing from the criminal activity, regardless of the media used to plan, coor-

dinate and execute some of the conduct," prosecutors wrote in court papers last week, citing his efforts to send people to Afghanistan to train for violent jihad and emails discussing night vision goggles and safe routes into Afghanistan.

Ahmad's attorneys say they'll respond in court objecting to the request to have the man testify by a videotaped deposition.

Prosecutors didn't name the man they want to testify, but his description matches that of Sajid Badat, a British citizen whose videotaped testimony was shown at the 2012 New York City trial of a man convicted in a foiled plot to attack the New York City subway system in 2009.

Badat was convicted in London in a plot to down an American Airlines flight from Paris to Miami with explosives hidden in his shoes. He said at that trial that he refused a request to testify in person in the U.S. because he remains under indictment in Boston on charges he conspired with failed shoe bomber Richard Reid and has been told he'd be arrested if he set foot in the United States.

Prosecutors said the man they want to testify at Ahmad's sentencing had testified by videotape at the trial for the foiled subway plot, was indicted in Massachusetts on charges related to the shoe bomb plot, refuses to testify in the U.S. and expects to be arrested upon arrival in the country. □



Volunteers pack food for the malnourished during the 2 Million Meals event, in Novi, Mich. More than 8,000 people helped pack 2 million-plus meals, which will be shipped to El Salvador, Haiti and the Philippines. Here, volunteers from NorthRidge Church are shown at one of the packing stations.

(AP Photo/Detroit News, Clarence Tabb Jr.)

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US Financial Front:

Republicans led autoworkers union defeat in South

ERIK SCHELZIG
TOM KRISHER

Associated Press

CHATTANOOGA, Tennessee (AP) —

Republicans fighting a unionization effort at a Volkswagen plant painted a grim picture before last week's vote. They said if employees joined the United Auto Workers, jobs would go elsewhere and incentives for the company would disappear.

Now that workers in the southern state of Tennessee have rejected the UAW in a close vote, Republicans are feeling pressure to fulfill its promises that keeping the union out means more jobs will come rolling in across the Southeast, where foreign-owned, non-union plants have proliferated.

The Volkswagen vote has established a playbook for denying the UAW its goal of expanding into the South. The UAW was defeated in a 712-626 vote Friday night. Many viewed VW as the union's best chance to win in the South because other automakers have not been as welcoming to organized labor as Volkswagen.

Labor interests make up half of the supervisory board at VW in Germany, and they questioned why the Tennessee plant is the company's only major factory worldwide without formal worker representation. VW wanted a German-style "works council" in Chattanooga to give employees, blue collar and salaried workers, a say over working conditions. But the company said U.S. law won't allow it without an independent union.

On the first of three days of voting at the Chattanooga plant, Republican Sen. Bob Corker, citing unnamed Volkswagen officials, all

but guaranteed that the German automaker would announce within two weeks of a union rejection that it would build a new midsize sport utility vehicle at its only U.S. factory instead of sending the work to Mexico.

"What they wanted me to know, unsolicited, that if the vote goes negative, they're going to announce immediately that they're going to build a second line," Corker told The Associated Press.

The company reiterated its longstanding position that the union vote would not factor into the decision. Corker also acknowledged that he had no information on whether the company would also expand if the union won.

But the implication was clear, union leaders said. His senator's statements — along with threats from state lawmakers to torpedo state incentives if the UAW won — played a key role in the vote.

UAW President Bob King called it unprecedented for Corker and other elected officials to have "threatened the company with no incentives,



U.S. Sen. Bob Corker speaks to reporters in Chattanooga, Tenn., about the defeat of the United Auto Workers in the three-day election at the Volkswagen plant in the city. The multiyear effort to organize Volkswagen's only U.S. plant was defeated on a 712-626 vote last Friday amid heavy campaigning on both sides.

(AP Photo/Erik Schelzig)

threatened workers with a loss of product."

"It's outrageous," King said. Corker, who had originally announced he would refrain from making comments during the election, changed course last week after he said the union tried to use his silence to chas-

tise other critics.

"I have no idea what effect we may or may not have had," Corker said. "But I think I would have forever felt tremendous remorse if ... I had not re-engaged and made sure that people understand other arguments."

Corker's claim that a no vote would quickly mean more jobs actually fit in with an assertion Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam leveled days earlier, when he said a union win would hurt the state's ability to attract auto parts suppliers and other future business. □

Train accidents stir worries about crude transport

MATTHEW BROWN

Associated Press

BILLINGS, Montana (AP) —

At least 10 times since 2008, freight trains hauling oil across North America have derailed and spilled significant quantities of crude, with most of the accidents touching off fires or catastrophic explosions.

The derailments released almost 3 million gallons of oil, nearly twice as much as the largest pipeline spill in the U.S. since at least

1986. And the deadliest wreck killed 47 people in the town of Lac-Mégantic, Quebec.

Those findings, from an Associated Press review of U.S. and Canadian accident records, underscore a lesser-known danger of America's oil boom, which is changing the global energy balance and raising urgent safety questions closer to home.

Experts say recent efforts to improve the safety of

oil shipments belie an unsettling fact: With increasing volumes of crude now moving by rail, it's become impossible to send oil-hauling trains to refineries without passing major population centers, where more lives and property are at risk.

Adding to the danger is the high volatility of the light, sweet crude from the fast-growing Bakken oil patch in Montana and North Dakota, where many of the

trains originate. Because it contains more natural gas than heavier crude, Bakken oil can have a lower ignition point.

Of the six oil trains that derailed and caught fire since 2008, four came from the Bakken and each caused at least one explosion.

That includes the accident at Lac-Mégantic, which spilled an estimated 1.6 million gallons and set off a blast that levelled a large section of the town. □

Co-pilot hijacks Ethiopian plane on way to Geneva

NICK CUMMING-BRUCE

© 2014 New York Times

GENEVA - The co-pilot of an Ethiopian Airlines passenger jet en route to Rome from Ethiopia seized control of the Boeing 767-300 early Monday and flew it to Geneva, where he asked for asylum, a spokesman for the Geneva police said.

The plane landed safely, and none of the 202 passengers and crew members on Flight ET-702, which originated in Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital, were injured, said the police spokesman, Eric Grandjean. "Everybody was safe from beginning to end - no problem," he added. Other officials said passengers were unaware of the hijacking until the plane landed in Switzerland.

The plane was in Italian airspace when the co-pilot, whom the Ethiopian government identified as Hailemedhin Abera Tegegn, a 31-year-old Ethiopian national, took the controls after the pilot left the cockpit to use the restroom. After locking the



Passengers are evacuated from a hijacked Ethiopian Airlines Plane on the airport in Geneva, Switzerland, Monday, Feb. 17, 2014. A hijacked aircraft traveling from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to Rome, Italy, has landed at Geneva's international airport early Monday morning. Swiss authorities have arrested the hijacker.

(AP Photo/Keystone, Salvatore Di Nolfi)

cockpit door, he initially told Italian air controllers that he needed fuel, but then activated a transponder to signal that the plane was being hijacked, Grandjean said. Italian fighter jets were scrambled, and they

escorted the aircraft out of Italian airspace.

The plane landed in Geneva at 6:02 a.m. and continued to a taxiway, where the co-pilot turned off the engines, opened the cockpit window and lowered

himself to the tarmac with a rope, officials said. He then ran toward security officers and identified himself as the hijacker, declared that he was in danger in Ethiopia and requested asylum, the officials added.

At a news conference in Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian minister of information, Redwan Hussein, said Hailemedhin had no criminal issues that would have made him fear prosecution.

"Any political, social reason would not make sense to hijack a plane," he said, adding, "So far, he's medically sane until otherwise is proven through the investigation."

Redwan also said that as an Ethiopian citizen, Hailemedhin was free to leave the country at any time, and that he had a visa to travel in Europe's Schengen Area, a free-travel zone that includes 22

members of the European Union and four other European countries.

A Geneva prosecutor, Olivier Jornot, said the co-pilot would be charged with taking hostages, a crime punishable by up to 20 years in prison, The Associated Press reported. He added that the man's chances of winning asylum were slim. "Technically, there is no connection between asylum and the fact he committed a crime to come here," he said, according to the AP. "But I think his chances are not very high."

Redwan said there was no bilateral agreement for extradition between Ethiopia and Switzerland, but that extradition would fall under the Geneva Conventions in the case of a hijacking.

Ethiopian Airlines, in a statement published on its website, confirmed that all passengers aboard the flight were safe, and said it was making immediate arrangements for them to continue to their destinations. The airport here was closed briefly, but normal operations were resuming quickly. Hijackings of civilian aircraft by crew members are relatively rare. In one such case, in 1986, Wang Xijue, a pilot for China Airlines of Taiwan, overpowered his two co-pilots on a cargo flight en route to Bangkok from Taipei. Wang then diverted the plane, which was not carrying passengers, to Guangzhou, in mainland China, where he defected. Decades earlier, in 1953, Mira Slovak, a pilot for Czechoslovak Airlines, locked his co-pilot out of the cockpit shortly after takeoff of a flight to Brno from Prague carrying 25 passengers. □



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German leaders meet with Ukrainian opposition leaders



German Chancellor Angela Merkel with Ukrainian opposition leaders Vitali Klitschko, left, and Arseniy Yatsenyuk at the Federal Chancellery in Berlin, Feb. 17, 2014. Germany rolled out an unusually high-level reception for the opposition leaders Monday as European negotiators pursued a compromise to end a crisis that has brought central Kiev to a standstill for more than two months. (Johannes Eisele/Pool via The New York Times)

© 2014 New York Times

BERLIN - Germany rolled out an unusually high-level reception for Ukraine's two main opposition leaders Monday as European negotiators pursued a com-

promise to end a crisis that has brought central Kiev, in the capital of the Eastern European country of 45 million, to a standstill for more than two months. Chancellor Angela Merkel

held her first known talks with Ukrainian politicians Arseniy P. Yatsenyuk and Vitali Klitschko, here at the Chancellery, and Germany's foreign minister, Frank-Walter Steinmeier, was meeting with them Monday evening. At the same time, President Joachim Gauck of Germany met with Alexander Kwasniewski, the former president of

Poland, who has visited Ukraine dozens of times in recent months in an effort to broker an end to the political crisis. Officials in Berlin cast the talks as part of a carefully choreographed series of moves designed to end the standoff between Ukraine's president, Viktor Yanukovich, and the opposition leaders and protesters who have stood their ground in central Kiev since Yanukovich rejected a deal with the European Union in November and turned instead to Russia for support and financial assistance. On Sunday, protesters left Kiev's City Hall, which they had occupied for more than two months, cementing an amnesty deal with the authorities that indicated that both sides were seeking to reduce tensions in the volatile crisis. Still, the opposition leaders invited to Berlin do not necessarily control the so-called "people's self-defense" units and freelance groups of young men armed with clubs and iron rods on the streets of central Kiev. On Monday, all was quiet in the Ukrai-

nian capital, but members of the militant wing started reinforcing some of the barricades that were supposed to be removed after amnesty was granted for detained protesters.

On Hrushevsky Street, a cobblestone road smeared with soot after fierce battles last month between protesters and riot police officers that involved Molotov cocktails and burning tires, the narrow passageway through high barricades that had opened up Sunday was sealed off again Monday by protesters. Masked men who identified themselves as members of the "31st self-defense unit" guarded the area, blocking pedestrians and vehicles.

Germany has played an active role in Ukraine, with Merkel first insisting in Parliament on Nov. 18 that the Cold War must be over for all former Soviet lands, and that there was no clear yes or no choice for Ukraine between Europe and Russia. She later berated Yanukovich for spurning the proffered association agreement with the EU. □

Israel PM Netanyahu calls boycotters 'anti-Semites'

IAN DEITCH
Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — It is time Israel fought back against those who boycott the Jewish state, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Monday, dubbing them "anti-Semites."

The comments come as concerns grow in Israel over a Palestinian-led movement of boycott, divestment and sanctions—known by its acronym, BDS. The boycott has been growing recently, mainly in Europe, where some businesses and pension funds have cut investments or trade with Israeli firms they say are connected to West Bank settlements.

Speaking to a group of

visiting Jewish-American leaders, Netanyahu said it is time for Israel to "delegitimize the delegitimizers." "In the past anti-Semites boycotted Jewish businesses and today they call for the boycott of the Jewish state, and by the way, only the Jewish state," Netanyahu said. "I think that it is important that the boycotters be exposed for what they are, they are classical anti-Semites in modern garb," Netanyahu said.

Many Israelis say the boycott has strong anti-Semitic connotations and is meant to delegitimize the Jewish state as a whole and not merely a pressure tactic against its policies toward the Palestinians. □

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Baghdad: Quadruple bombing kills at least 25

DURAID ADNAN

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BAGHDAD - Three bombs that targeted public markets and a fourth bomb placed outside a Shiite mosque exploded Monday night in Baghdad, killing 25 people and wounding dozens, the police reported.

The quadruple bombings appeared to be the latest in a wave of Sunni radical mayhem that has proliferated in Iraq and is playing an increased role in the war in neighboring Syria.

The first was a car bomb in the Ur neighborhood of northeastern Baghdad, a heavily populated Shiite area, that killed 10 civilians and wounded 26 near a public market. Another car bomb killed nine civilians and wounded 30 in a famous public market in the Karrada district. A third bomb exploded in a market in western Baghdad's Ghazaliya neighborhood, the police said, killing four

civilians and wounding 15. A fourth bomb detonated near a Shiite mosque in the al-Amil neighborhood of southwestern Baghdad, killing two civilians and wounding nine.



Civilians gather as firefighters try to extinguish fire after bombs went off in Baghdad, Iraq.

(AP Photo/Karim Kadim)

In Diyala province northeast of Baghdad, a roadside bomb aimed at an army patrol killed two soldiers and wounded two others, police sources re-

ported.

In western Iraq's Anbar province, an incubator of Sunni radicalism, police said a suicide bomber killed a police officer and wounded eight others at a

checkpoint near the house of an important tribal leader who has allied with the Shiite-led government in Baghdad to fight al-Qaida militants in Anbar. □

SKorea resort roof collapses, 9 dead

HYUNG-JIN KIM

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)

— The roof of a resort auditorium collapsed during a welcoming ceremony for South Korean university freshmen, killing nine and likely trapping about 10, officials said Tuesday.

The dead included seven students and an adult; officials weren't sure yet if the ninth victim was a student. About 80 people were sent to hospitals with minor injuries, according to officials at the state-run National Emergency Management Agency who spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to speak to the media. Recent heavy snow, sleet and icy roads hampered rescue operations after the roof's collapse late Monday. Emergency staff worked to pry students from beneath twisted metal and rushed the injured on stretchers to waiting ambulances. Officials initially estimated that 17 people were seriously injured but later said the injuries weren't severe. South Korean media reported

that the heavy snowfall was believed to have resulted in the collapse, but the cause was still being investigated. About 560 students from Busan University of Foreign Studies had been scheduled to attend a two-day freshman orientation at the Manua Ocean Resort in the southeastern city of Gyeongju and were in the auditorium when the roof collapsed, the officials said. An official had earlier incorrectly said there were a total of 1,000 students at the resort. □

Uganda: Wanted LRA rebel commander believed dead

RODNEY MUHUMUZA

Associated Press

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP) — Uganda's military said it believes a senior rebel commander with the infamous Lord's Resistance Army was killed last year in Central African Republic following an attack by African Union forces, inflicting a serious setback to the rebel group that is said to be in decline amid an international hunt for its leader, Joseph Kony.

Rebel commander Okot Odhiambo —who was the LRA's No.2 commander behind Kony — likely died of his wounds after an attack in October near the town of Djema, one of at least two bases used by African forces in Central African Republic, Ugandan military spokesman Lt. Col. Paddy Ankunda said Monday.

Ankunda said the accounts of LRA defectors provide "a corroborating picture" of Odhiambo's death even though his body hasn't been found. One LRA defector said he saw a badly wounded Odhiambo being carried away by fighters following the attack, and another defector said the commander was missing at a top LRA meeting where he was expected late last year, according to Ankunda. "There is some truth to it," he said, referring to Odhiambo's death.

The news was hailed in Washington.

"The death of Odhiambo would be a historic blow to the LRA's command structure. It is clear that, despite the regional challenges, the AU Regional Task Force continues to make great strides toward ending the LRA threat," said State Department spokesman William Stevens. He congratulated the Ugandan-led African Union troops "on their continued success in pursuing the LRA's remaining leaders and promoting defections. We believe it is critical that pressure continue to be put on the LRA to prevent it from regrouping."

The United States has about 100 military advisers helping the African Union force of about 3,000 troops from Uganda, South Sudan and Congo to hunt down the LRA.

Odhiambo's death, if confirmed, would be "a huge blow" to the LRA, whose leaders are constantly trying to elude capture in the jungles of central Africa, said Ben Keesey, the head of the LRA watchdog group Invisible Children. Kony himself is believed to be hiding in Central African Republic, which has been largely lawless over the past year amid sectarian violence in which up to 1 million people have been displaced.

Odhiambo was one of five LRA commanders indicted by the International Criminal Court in 2005 over atrocities committed in a rebellion that started in Uganda in the 1980s before spreading to some parts of central Africa. In the past the rebels have operated bases in South Sudan and Congo, taking advantage of the region's porous borders to elude their hunters. □



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Pope Francis fingerprinted for passport

MICHAEL WARREN
Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina

(AP) — Pope Francis may be the head of the Vatican state, but he's not giving up the right to travel as just another Argentine citizen. The leader of the Roman Catholic Church has renewed his Argentine passport and national identity card, and Argentina's Vatican envoy told The Associated Press on Monday that the pope insisted on paying for the documents himself.

Renewing Argentine passports and identity cards usually cost about \$55 at the official exchange rate. "He wanted it for when he travels.

The Argentine passport is valuable for that!" Ambassador Juan Pablo Cafiero said.

The Interior Ministry announced that the pope went through the same speedy process that all Argentines can now enjoy. Still, the process was speedier than most for Jorge Mario Bergoglio.

Cafiero said he and a deputy went over to the pope's hotel in the Vatican gardens on Friday to personally take Francis' picture and fingerprints and record his signature using a notebook computer. By Monday, the documents were printed and ready for delivery. □

UN letter to Kim Jong Un warns on accountability

JOHN HEILPRIN
Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — A U.N. panel warned North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on Monday that he may be held accountable for orchestrating widespread crimes against civilians in the secretive Asian nation,

ly warned Kim that international prosecution is needed "to render accountable all those, including possibly yourself, who may be responsible for crimes against humanity."

"Even without being directly involved in crimes against humanity, a mili-

investigated and prosecuted. Kirby added, however, there was no indication the North Korea would do so.

The investigative commission's 372-page report is a wide-ranging indictment of North Korea for policies including political prison camps with 80,000

sociated Press.

Speaking to reporters after the release of the report, Kirby said it was impossible not to include Kim's name in the list of suspects because of what he described as the government's totalitarian nature.

Kirby referred to prison camps, which North Korea says do not exist. "However, the satellite images show the prison camps and we had testimony, which is quoted in the report, which tells the stories of the prison camps" that include starvation and stunted growth in babies, he said.

North Korean officials did not cooperate with the panel's investigation, saying in correspondence last year that the country "totally and categorically rejects" the probe ordered by the U.N.'s 47-nation Human Rights Council, which is based in Geneva.

The commission's three members — which also include Sonja Biserko of Serbia and Marzuki Darusman of Indonesia — said the findings are based on testimony from 80 witnesses at four public hearings in Seoul, Tokyo, London and Washington last year plus more than 240 confidential interviews with victims and others. North Korea is unlikely to face prosecution because China, one of five veto-wielding members of the U.N. Security Council, generally opposes such referrals to the International Criminal Court. □



Retired Australian judge Michael Kirby, chairperson of the commission of inquiry on human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, shows the commission's report during a press conference at the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, Monday, Feb. 17, 2014.

(AP Photo/Anja Niedringhaus)

ranging from systematic executions to torture, rape and mass starvation.

It is unusual for a U.N. report to directly implicate a nation's leader. But in a letter accompanying a year-long investigative report, the chairman of a three-member U.N. commission of inquiry, retired Australian judge Michael Kirby, direct-

tary commander may be held responsible for crimes against humanity committed by forces under the commander's effective command and control," Kirby wrote.

He urged Kim to take "all necessary and reasonable measures" to stop crimes against humanity and insure that they are properly

to 120,000 people, state-sponsored abductions of North Korean, Japanese and other nationals, and lifelong indoctrination.

"They are wrongs that shock the conscience of humanity," Kirby said, comparing them with Nazi atrocities.

Details of the findings were reported Friday by The As-

Jamaica aims to revive economy with port hub



Fisherman Tony Chambers cleans a small snapper on a beach in the fishing town of Old Harbor in southern Jamaica. A Chinese engineering company is expected to develop a \$1.5 billion transshipment port on cays less than a mile off the fishing beach as the Caribbean island joins a regional rush to lure the bigger, deeper-drafting boats expected to cross through an expanded Panama Canal by mid-2015. (AP Photo/David McFadden)

DAVID McFADDEN

Associated Press

OLD HARBOR, Jamaica

(AP) — This hardscrabble harbor town on Jamaica's southern coast seems an unlikely contender in an emerging regional competition over the shipping routes that carry global trade. But as Jamaica joins a rush to lure the bigger, deeper-drafting ships expected to cross an expanded Panama Canal by mid-2015, political leaders and civic boosters envision the Old Harbor area as a cornerstone of what they envision as a transformative, dream development for the Caribbean island. Jamaica aims to become a global logistical hub when mammoth "post-Panamax" ships start carrying a growing share of cargo, much of it from China. So far, construction hasn't started, but blueprints call for an expansion of the island's existing container terminal, airports and roads while a Chinese engineering company develops a \$1.5 billion transshipment port on a couple of mangrove-fringed islands just off Old Harbor. "The proposed transformation of Jamaica into a world-class logistics center is unquestionably the most ambitious and far-reaching project on which

this nation has been engaged since we became an independent state over 50 years ago," said Francis Kennedy, president of the Jamaica Chamber of Commerce. All over the Caribbean, the Panama Canal expansion, despite its recent delays, has caused no shortage of

countries to think big. With Brazilian financing, Cuba recently started developing a new port it hopes can play a major role in global logistic chains. Ports in places like the Bahamas, Colombia and Miami are also busily strengthening infrastructure. In Jamaica, technical studies to evalu-

ate the dredging of Kingston Harbor to 15.5 meters were recently completed and bidders have been pre-qualified. Kingston's busy container terminal is expected to be privatized and turned over to an international operator soon. And the government has been busily meeting with investors from China, the U.S., Germany and other nations. The plans have excited many in this country of 2.7 million people known mostly for its beaches, reggae music and dominant Olympic sprinters. Industry Minister Anthony Hylton said it's such a high stakes competition that he is "up at nights, frequently in the wee hours of the morning, cognizant of the fact that the future of our economy depends on us getting this initiative right." Yet it's far from clear whether debt-shackled Jamaica can realize its ambitious goals, despite its strategic location by busy sea lanes between North, Central and South American markets. Jamaica has had one of the world's slowest growing economies over the past four decades and

a four-year loan package with the International Monetary Fund is propping up the island. Those economic woes severely limit Jamaica's ability to invest in the project, which is estimated to cost as much as \$15 billion. That means the private sector would need to provide almost all of the financing. Damien King, head of the economics department at Jamaica's campus of the University of the West Indies, said the plans are worth pursuing but transforming Jamaica into a logistics center would require a huge level of public sector organization and management. "It is far from obvious that the Jamaican government can muster that even with throwing a disproportionate share of its capacity at the problem," King said. At the same time, a skirmish has been brewing between the government and the conservation lobby over the proposed port to be developed by state-run China Harbor Engineering Co. on the uninhabited Goat Islands in a swath of Portland Bight, the island's biggest protected area. □

Bill Clinton in Haiti to visit foundation projects

TRENTON DANIEL

Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)

— Bill Clinton arrived in Haiti Monday to shine a spotlight on some of the projects that his private foundation has supported to help the country recover from a devastating earthquake in 2010. The former U.S. president began the visit with a tour at a solar-powered primary school in Cite Soleil, a forsaken seaside slum that is one of the Caribbean nation's poorest neighborhoods. The Clinton Foundation helped the Union des Apotres-Prodev plant trees and a garden, meant to help feed the school's 200 students. And it helped organize a donation of 64 solar panels by NRG Energy, Inc., valued at \$100,000. "This is going to be a complete — not only educational but neighborhood

experience," Clinton told reporters. "It's a good model." During his visit, Clinton will also tour a train-

ing school for Haitian coffee farmers in a remote village, as well as a recycling center and a new

apparel manufacturer that invests part of its profits in its employees and their families. □



Former U.S. President and UN special envoy to Haiti Bill Clinton waves to the children of the Union Des Apotres - Prodev School in Cite Soleil, Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Monday Feb. 17, 2014. Clinton is in Haiti to visit several projects that focus on agriculture and the environment, including the Union Des Apotres - Prodev solar-powered school that his private foundation has assisted and a training school for Haitian coffee farmers. (AP Photo/Dieu Nalio Chery)



“John Walker & Sons Voyager” brought to Aruba by Romar Trading



ORANJESTAD - Beginning in February 2014, the luxury yacht started its journey through Latin America and the Caribbean, docking at six key ports-of-call, capturing the essence of a true Odyssey, and honoring individuals who seek a life without limits and a journey without boundaries, just like Sir Alexander Walker II himself. The six markets include: Trinidad & Tobago, Venezuela, Aruba, Colombia, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic, before rounding off the regional activation in Miami. The beautiful “John Walker & Sons Voyager” is a literal reproduction of an epic journey which evokes the nautical and game changing heritage of John Walker & Sons, celebrating life's great journeys and welcoming select guests on board the beautiful sailing yacht to launch the spectacular new award-winning, triple malt Odyssey. Following the epic journey around Asia and Europe, John Walker & Sons Voyager now arrives in the most colorful and vibrant regions of the world in Latin America and the Caribbean.

John Walker & Sons Odyssey commemorates Sir Alexander Walker II's en-



during entrepreneurial spirit with the creation of a spectacular new triple malt and modern interpretation of a remarkable decanter first created by Sir Alexander 82 years ago.

John Walker & Sons Voyager is a tribute to the game-changing heritage of the Walker family, celebrating the luxury collection's newest edition; the rare triple malt Odyssey and the pinnacle of blended whiskies – Johnnie Walker Blue Label. An innovator at heart, one of Sir Alexander Walker's greatest innovations was his 1932 creation of a unique decanter bottle which was able to move to match the motion of the waves aboard luxury cruise

liners in the golden age of sea travel.

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Originally commissioned in the 1920s, Around the World was written by the local John Walker & Sons distributors and agents who contributed a chapter on their country, drawing on local knowledge, insider information and encapsulating the pride of the country.

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vided by the highly educated service staff are now know around the world. This has been confirmed by our esteemed clients who are recommending their friends and families to visit The Blue Lobster when coming to Aruba from countries far away like Russia, Brazil, Portugal, Germany, Switzerland, England, while 70% of the patrons come directly from the USA. And a great percentages are locals and from other counties of South America. The specials already known to most of our

Lobster Cocktail or the Blue Mojito will not be a complete visit. These are must try cocktails made by their 20-years experienced bartender, and of course all renowned brands and liquors are readily available. A carefully chosen wine list which will satisfy the palates of the most extreme wine connoisseurs is another good reason to visit The Blue Lobster. The Blue Lobster Restaurant it is a "Must Visit" while in Aruba, enjoy the real Aruban flavors, authentic local food is available at

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On The
Beach**

**Anna
Maria
Carusone**

She is from Casurta, a town close to Napoli, in Italy. It is her first time in Aruba and she is on her honeymoon.

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At the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa: Marcel Angela and Sheldon Leuden win Supervisor and Manager of the Year



PALM BEACH - The Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa hosted a gala event just recently in celebration of the resort's dedicated col-

leagues. The official part of the evening included an award ceremony for Supervisor and Manager of the Year, a sumptuous

three-course dinner, entertainment with Ritmo Cubano and dance music with Latin Fever. The winner for the Supervi-

sor of the Year 2013 award, Marcel Angela, Beverage Department, was lauded for his pursuit of excellence and his "Yes I Can" attitude. Other distinguished Supervisors also nominated for the coveted title, Cickaria Rafael, Albert de la Cruz and Jacqueline Leyba. General Manager Mark Lyttleton Frances praised the contributions of Supervisors who are often called to work as much as a line employee and to plan and strategize as

much as a department head. Marcel outshone 59 other resort Supervisors, in his climb to the top.

A runner up to last year's Manager of the Year award, Sheldon Leuden, Food & Beverage Department, won the prestigious Manager of the Year title, lauded for his spirit of service and his exceptional work ethics and skills. Other nominees included Diego Garcia, Raynold Semeleer and Eleazer Clemencia, rewarded with certificates of recognition, gifts and public praise. Shelton outshone 42 other managers in his climb to the top.

Pictured here, the winners and members of management, as they are being congratulated on their professional and personal achievements, with engraved plaques, travel to exclusive Radisson destinations, flowers and gifts! □



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CASINO AND SHOPS



Meryl Davis and Charlie White of the United States compete in the ice dance free dance figure skating finals at the Iceberg Skating Palace during the 2014 Winter Olympics, Monday, Feb. 17, 2014, in Sochi, Russia.

Associated Press

Davis, White of U.S. win Olympic ice dance gold

SOCHI, Russia (AP) — Through 17 years of grueling practices, of defeats and victories, Meryl Davis and Charlie White insist they've never considered parting ways.

A perfect pairing, they were nearly flawless at the Sochi Olympics, and on Monday they became the first Americans to win an ice dance gold medal.

"The closest we came to breaking up, I can't pinpoint one because there hasn't been one," Davis,

27, said. "Certainly there have been struggles. It hasn't been easy to get where we are. ... It's a partnership which I couldn't have asked for more.

"Charlie and I are very different. We used those difference to balance it out. There has never been a moment of doubt."

Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir of Canada, the 2010 champions, took silver, while bronze went to Russia's Elena Ilinykh and Nikita Katsalapov.

Davis and White won silver in Vancouver, but in the four years since they have overtaken the Canadians, their training partners in Detroit under Russian coach Marina Zoueva. The reigning world champs scored 116.63 points in the free dance to finish with 195.52, 4.53 ahead of Virtue and Moir. "No athletes like it to sit in this position," Moir said. "We came here to win the competition. But it's easier when we see them and know how hard these guys

work." When their program to "Sheherazade" ended with White on a knee, Davis rested her head on his back in exhausted elation. The two started skating together in 1997 in Michigan, and on the biggest day of their career, they performed just as they had visualized it.

"That in itself justified 17 years of hard work," White, 26, said.

The music swelling over the final minute of the program, their feet were in nonstop motion, yet every step was

intricately choreographed. Their lifts were a blur as White spun across the ice with Davis held aloft, their movements and expressions still fierce despite the draining demands of the performance.

As they told the story of the Persian king and the woman who enchants him, White was regal in purple velvet, Davis beguiling in a lavender dress with jewels shimmering on her midriff.

Continued on page 20

Belarus has big day at Sochi Olympics

DAVID PACE

Associated Press

SOCHI, Russia (AP) — It was Belarus day Monday at the Sochi Olympics.

A Belarussian woman made Olympic history by becoming the first female ever to win three biathlon titles at the same games, and one of her teammates captured the men's freestyle skiing aerials competition to complete a gold-medal sweep on the event.

Anton Kushnir nailed a near-perfect landing after a "back double full-full-double full" jump — five twists packed into three head-over-heels flips while soaring 50 feet off the ramp and into the night sky.

"It was the best jump I've ever witnessed in person," said 18-year-old American Mac Bohannon, who finished fifth.

Darya Domracheva won her third biathlon title when she left a field of elite racers far behind to capture gold in the 12.5-kilometer mass start. As she neared the finish line, she waved her right pole above her head in celebration.

"Maybe it's strange, but I don't feel like I've done something special," Domracheva said. "I just tried to enjoy myself and I did my race with a laugh. But for sure, it's amazing."

The race was in doubt earlier as dense fog forced postponement of the men's mass start race and the men's snowboardcross

competition. It lifted just in time for the women's race and Domracheva's history-making performance.

Indoors, American pair Meryl Davis and Charlie White won the gold in figure skating's ice dance, finishing just ahead of longtime training partners and rivals Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir of Canada. It was the first Olympic title in the event for the United States.

On Day 11 at the Sochi Olympics, Russia won the two-man bobsled for its fifth gold medal of the games; the U.S. and Canada advanced to the championship game of the women's ice hockey tournament; and Germany won the men's team ski jumping gold, raising its games-leading total to eight.

BIATHLON: Domracheva won the pursuit and individual biathlon races last week. She took the lead for the first time after four minutes and stayed ahead of the field after the first shooting. Gabriela Soukalova of the Czech Republic took silver and Tiril Eckhoff of Norway bronze.

BOBSLED: Russia's winning two-man bobsled had Alexander Zubkov driving and Alexey Voevoda as the brakeman. The Swiss team of Beat Hefti and Alex Baumann took silver, and the U.S. bronze, with Steven Holcomb driving and Steven Langton as



Anton Kushnir of Belarus jumps during men's freestyle skiing aerials qualifying at the Rosa Khutor Extreme Park, at the 2014 Winter Olympics, Monday, Feb. 17, 2014, in Krasnaya Polyana, Russia.

Associated Press

brakeman. It was the first two-man bobsled medal for the U.S. in more than a half century.

FREESTYLE SKIING: Alexei Grishin won Belarus' first ever gold medal in Vancouver four years ago — also in the men's aerials. Afterwards, he got his picture on a stamp back home. On Monday, he failed to qualify in the aerials. Belarus now has five golds in Sochi. Australia's David Morris finished 24 points behind Kushnir to win silver; China's Jia Zongyang took the bronze.

SKI JUMPING: Germany's win in the team event ended Austria's winning

streak. It had won gold in the last two Olympics and hasn't lost a team large hill event since the 2005 world championships. Germany's team included Andreas Wank, Marinus Kraus, Andres Wellinger and Severin Freund. Austria took silver and Japan won the bronze.

ICE HOCKEY: Megan Bozek and Brianna Decker each had a goal and two assists to help the United States beat Sweden 6-1. The U.S. has medaled in every Winter Games since women's hockey was added in 1998. Canada, the three-time defending gold medalist, beat Switzerland 3-1 to advance to the final for

the fifth consecutive Olympics. The two North American powers have met for three of the previous four championships.

CURLING: China beat Britain 6-5 to qualify for the Olympic semifinals in men's curling. The loss forced Britain into a tiebreaker against Norway on Tuesday for the final spot in the playoffs. Canada and Sweden advanced on Sunday. In the women's tournament, Switzerland and Britain advanced to the semifinals, joining Canada and Sweden. Canada is the first women's curling team to go through the round-robin matches without a loss. □

Elimination games begin in Olympic men's hockey

GREG BEACHAM

AP Sports Writer

SOCHI, Russia (AP) — Thanks to that memorable shootout loss to the U.S., Russia must win four games in six days to bring home its first Olympic men's hockey gold medals in 22 years.

Alex Ovechkin and his teammates begin attempting this daunting task Tuesday against Norway when elimination games begin in Sochi.

Russia's fourth game of its home Olympics is the highlight of the four-game qualification schedule. The

Czech Republic faces Slovakia in the renewal of a rivalry, while Switzerland has a rematch with Latvia, and tiny Slovenia goes for its second-ever Olympic victory against Austria.

The top four teams from preliminary-round play all get the day off to prepare for their quarterfinal matchups. Canada, Sweden, the U.S. and Finland have an extra day of rest, but that hasn't always been an advantage in this tense tournament.

No team that went unbeaten in group play has

won an Olympic gold medal since the NHL joined the games in 1998. Every champion was forced to regroup after getting beaten early in the tournament, from the Czech Republic in 1998 to the host Canadians four years ago in Vancouver.

That history suggests the Russians have a shot, and it's impossible to write off their entertaining roster and all of its flaws. If Ovechkin, Pavel Datsyuk and Ilya Kovalchuk can get their offense going, the Russians are a rough matchup for

anybody in Sochi — even without a raucous home crowd roaring each time its team gets the puck over the opposing blue line.

Norway hasn't won an Olympic match since the home Lillehammer Games in 1994, and there's little reason to suspect the Russians will be in any trouble — but it's dangerous to assume anything in the Sochi tournament.

Olympic veterans realize the tone of this 12-day event changes after the opening-round games. Although nobody is under

as much pressure as the host Russians, every player realizes one mistake in the second week can destroy their nation's Olympic aspirations. "Obviously these (elimination) games always have a bit more of a different feel, but you don't want to have to change the way you play a whole lot," Canada captain Sidney Crosby said. "I think we've been playing the right way here for three games. I think we've gotten better." Even practice can be a hazard in Sochi, however. □

DANCE GOLD

Continued from page 18

They now have one medal of each color after winning bronze in the new team event in Sochi, the first American figure skaters to own three.

Virtue and Moir had become the first North American ice dance gold medalists at their home Olympics in Vancouver. Their free dance to Russian classical music told the story of their own partnership, which also stretches back to 1997.

In a performance at times tender and at others triumphant, Moir kissed her hand at the start and again throughout the program.

"I think there is relief," Moir said. "It has been a journey to get here since 2010, a lot of sleepless nights to get to the Olympic Games. If I could only have been that 22-year-old at Vancouver. "The reason we stayed in is



Meryl Davis and Charlie White of the United States pose for photographers after placing first in the ice dance free dance figure skating finals at the Iceberg Skating Palace during the 2014 Winter Olympics, Monday, Feb. 17, 2014, in Sochi, Russia.

Associated Press

we wanted a different journey. Now, the pressures of this game are just melting away."

Ilinykh and Katsalapov were just ninth at last year's world championships but

are now the latest Olympic ice dance medalists from Russia, finishing 7.51 points behind the Canadians. She's only 19; he's 22. The home fans started cheering when the first few notes

of "Swan Lake" played for their free dance, and they were roaring when it ended with Katsalapov collapsed on his knees and Ilinykh weeping.

"The program builds and

builds and builds," Katsalapov said through a translator, "and the audience gave us energy to keep building it more and more." France's Nathalie Pechalat and Fabian Bourzat were fourth, 6.26 points out of bronze. The other U.S. teams, Madison Chock and Evan Bates and siblings Maia and Alex Shibutani, finished eighth and ninth.

Russia has won 18 of 33 medals in ice dance's Olympic history, but now North Americans own two straight golds. Virtue and Moir have said they'll likely retire. For Davis and White, talk of the future can wait until this historic victory starts feeling real.

"We wanted to fight for the best performance we could give and we did that. You dream of this for so long, work so hard, and they worked hard, too," White said, referring to Virtue and Moir. "They always have been with us, pushing us, and we couldn't have done it without them." □

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East gets by Durant, Griffin to win All-Star game

BRIAN MAHONEY
AP Basketball Writer

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The Eastern Conference finally stopped Kevin Durant and Blake Griffin as it stopped its losing streak at the NBA All-Star game.

Kyrie Irving had 31 points and 14 assists and was voted the game's MVP, Carmelo Anthony made a record eight 3-pointers and scored 30 points, and the East rallied for a 163-155 victory over the West on Sunday night in the highest-scoring All-Star game ever. "It's a great honor," Irving said.

"We had a few MVPs. Everyone out here today is an MVP."

Durant and Griffin each

finished with 38 points, four shy of Wilt Chamberlain's All-Star game record. But the East scored the final 10 points to pull out a game it trailed by 18.

"We wanted it," LeBron James said.

"I've been a part of the last three and in defeat."

Irving scored 15 points in the fourth quarter as the East ended a three-game losing streak. James had 22 points, seven rebounds and seven assists.

"The superstars of our league were just telling us to compete on every play," Irving said. "Trying to play as much defense as possible. You know, sticking to our game plan."

We had a game plan go-

ing in and we executed."

The 318 points broke the record of 303 set in 1987.

Griffin shot 19 of 23, while Durant finished with 10 rebounds and six assists.

But the West was shut out after Durant's 3-pointer gave it a 155-153 lead with 1:59 left. Indiana's Paul George made three free throws,

Anthony nailed his final 3-pointer, and James scored to make it 161-155. George closed it out with two more free throws and finished with 18 points.

The game that usually doesn't get tight until the final minutes was close throughout the fourth quarter, neither team leading by more than four until the



East Team's Kyrie Irving, of the Cleveland Cavaliers (2) goes to the hoop against the West Team during the NBA All Star basketball game, Sunday, Feb. 16, 2014, in New Orleans.

Associated Press

Injured All-Star Bryant frankly discusses future

BRETT MARTEL
AP Sports Writer

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Kobe Bryant acknowledges the best days of his brilliant career might be in the past. He still wants to play in another NBA All-Star game, though. The 16-time All-Star made that much clear while sitting out Sunday's 2014 edition with nagging pain and swelling in his left knee, stemming from a broken leg. He said he would even be interested in entering a future 3-point contest. Playing in an All-Star game "means you're one of the best players in the world," Bryant said shortly before Sunday night's game, which he watched from the bench in a tan suit. "It's obviously a goal of mine." The Los Angeles Lakers star is trying not to delude himself about how much longer he can



Los Angeles Lakers Kobe Bryant, left, sits with West Team's Kevin Durant, of the Oklahoma City Thunder during the NBA All Star basketball game, Sunday, Feb. 16, 2014, in New Orleans.

Associated Press

play at the level to which he's been accustomed. He has played in only six games this season, fracturing his tibia shortly after his return from an Achilles tendon injury. Asked if he was concerned his body might

be starting to give out, he responded, "Of course. Absolutely." "That's part of the excitement of the challenge, that level of uncertainty: Is this it? ... Are my best days behind me?" Bryant said. □

final minute.

Chris Paul had 11 points and 13 assists, and first-time All-Star Stephen Curry had 12 points and 11 assists for the West. But the best point guard on the floor was Irving, who shot 14 of 17 and helped the East ring up 87 points in the second half after it surrendered a record 89 in the first.

In a colorful tribute to New Orleans, players wore sneakers and socks that ranged from green and blue to orange and purple, making the game look like a Mardi Gras parade.

The parade was one of layups and dunks for the West, which scored 44 points in the first quarter and 45 in the second.

Griffin had 18 points in the first quarter and Durant had 22 at halftime, both two shy of records set by Glen Rice in 1997.

And there was plenty of music, the rosters and starting lineups introduced

around a concert by Pharrell Williams, who was joined by his own All-Stars in Nelly, Busta Rhymes, Sean "Diddy" Combs and Snoop Dogg.

Magic Johnson led a band, too, encouraging the All-Stars to join him in singing "Happy Birthday" after the first quarter to Hall of Famer Bill Russell, the NBA's greatest champion who was celebrating his 80th.

The All-Stars played better than they sang.

The East finished with 61 percent shooting, needing all sorts of offense after it simply couldn't defend Durant and Griffin.

Durant made 6 3-pointers and easily blew past the 28.8 points he had been averaging in All-Star games, which was an NBA record. Outside of the ugly sleeved jerseys, it was a good look for the NBA's midseason showcase, bouncing back strongly from an uneven All-Star Saturday night. □

Venus, Safarova win opening matches in Dubai



Venus Williams of the U.S. returns the ball to Elena Vesnina of Russia during the first round of Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Monday, Feb. 17, 2014.

Associated Press

SANDRA HARWITT
Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Venus Williams made good on the wild card she received into the Dubai Championships by posting a 6-3, 6-2 first-round win over Elena Vesnina of Russia on Monday. The 48th-ranked Williams made her first appearance in Dubai since she won her second straight title here in 2010. She'd missed the last three years either because of injury or Sjogren's Syndrome. "I definitely don't take for granted any win anymore," Williams said. "Not that I used to because I earned it. "But now it's even more special." She fired 10 aces and broke the 33rd-ranked Vesnina four times. Vesni-

na had won their previous two matchups. "My serve keeps improving pretty much every tournament," Williams said. "That always helps me." In the first set, Williams broke Vesnina at love in the sixth game. Williams raced to 3-0 in the second set, but surrendered her serve in the fourth game when she sailed a forehand long on the one break point she faced all night. Williams' sister, Serena, the top seed and also a wild card recipient, will play Ekaterina Makarova of Russia on Tuesday. It will be the first match for Serena since losing to Ana Ivanovic in the Australian Open fourth round last month. Serena's been nursing a back injury until this week. Lucie Safarova of the

Czech Republic ousted Sloane Stephens 6-3, 7-5, handing the 18th-ranked American back-to-back first-round losses at Doha and Dubai. Safarova broke Stephens three times in the first set, but double-faulted twice from 30-30 in the ninth game of the second to give Stephens a 5-4 lead. Stephens, however, was unable to hold on to it. "I didn't really get a great rhythm and she was playing good tennis in the end," Stephens said. The main draw is so strong in Dubai that Australian Open semifinalist Eugenie Bouchard of Canada was relegated to the qualifying draw. Bouchard lost her third qualifying match to Anika Beck of Germany 6-1, 6-4 on Monday. □

Li Na moves to No. 2; Peng tops doubles rankings



Na Li of China reacts after winning a point during her match against Petra Cetkovska of the Czech Republic during the fourth day of the WTA Qatar Ladies Open in Doha, Qatar, Thursday, Feb. 13, 2014.

Associated Press

SINGAPORE (AP) — Li Na set a record for Asian players by rising to a career-high No. 2 in the WTA rank-

ings released Monday, while her compatriot Peng Shuai ensured another first for China by ascending to the top ranking in doubles. Li won the Australian Open last month for her second Grand Slam singles title and started 2014 with a 13-match winning streak, including victory at her season-opening event at Shenzhen. WTA chief executive Stacey Allaster says "as they have done throughout their careers, both players continue to set new milestones for Chinese tennis. Their accomplishments are truly inspirational." The 32-year-old Li, who sits behind only Serena Williams in the women's rankings, says she hopes she is setting a platform for the next generation of Chinese players. □

Serena Williams: Practice is boring



Serena Williams of the U.S. watches her sister Venus, unseen, in a match against Elena Vesnina of Russia during the first round of Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Monday, Feb. 17, 2014.

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Serena Williams says she asked for a wild card into the Dubai Championships to combat boredom once she believed her back injury was on the mend. "My back finally started to feel better but it wasn't better in time for me to play Doha at the level I'd like to play," Williams said on Monday. "So then it became more about what

can I play next and this was next on the calendar. "It gets boring to have to practice every day. I was like, 'I don't want to practice anymore. I want to play a match.'" The American has been sidelined with an aching back since losing a three-set, fourth-round match to Ana Ivanovic at the Australian Open last month. The top-ranked Williams isn't just playing singles this week in Dubai. She and sister Venus, who also was given a singles wild card into the main draw, were granted wild cards into the doubles as well. "It's actually going to be good for me to do (play singles and doubles) because it will give me some more match play," Williams said. "I need to get used to the conditions and moving so it's definitely helpful." Williams, who received a first-round bye, will play Ekaterina Makarova of Russia in the second round. □

Computer whizzes brainstorm for cash at hackathons

MARTHA MENDOZA

AP National Writer

SAN JOSE, California (AP) —

It used to be that "hacking" was just a type of crime, a computer break-in. But today, the term is also part of a growing — and perfectly legal — mainstay of the tech sector.

Computer programming competitions known as "hackathons" have spread like viruses in recent years as ways for geeks, nerds and designers to get together to eat pizza, lose sleep and create something new. The formal, marathon group brainstorming sessions are focused on everything from developing lucrative apps to using computer code to solve the world's problems. This year a record 1,500 hackathons are planned around the globe, up from just a handful in 2010.

"A hackathon is the fastest way to actually do something about an idea," said Nima Adelkhani, organizer of the weekend-long Hack for Peace in the Middle East competition in San Francisco this month.

Law enforcement hasn't abandoned the term. Dozens of federally convict-

ed "hackers" are serving prison sentences for computer fraud and other cybercrimes. And the Justice Department's cybercrime budget this year is \$9 million to target offenses that include "hacking."

But the new uses have popped up with increasing frequency since a pair of tech events in 1999 where developers worked together to write programs. Yahoo gets recognition for the first official hackathon in 2005. And Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg has been largely credited with helping broaden the definitions by urging his staff to "hack" by "building something quickly or testing the boundaries of what can be done."

A new Facebook option that went live Thursday allowing users more than 50 ways to identify their gender beyond male and female was conceived during a company hackathon four months ago.

This month, the first global hackathon for Black Male Achievement was held in Oakland, California. Music Hack Day is coming in Tokyo and Hackomotive competitors will develop

apps in Santa Monica, California., that make it easier to buy and sell cars.

During these sorts of tech-heavy, weekend competitions, teams of computer programmers, software engineers and developers huddle over monitors for hours, working up new apps for smartphones or other devices. A panel of judges selects winners, and prizes are usually awarded. "Developers are a rare breed where they get paid a lot of money to do this job during the week, and they enjoy it so much they want to do it more on the weekend," said Jon Gotfriend, who's been going to hackathons for more than three years.

As such events have become more popular, a set of rules has coalesced. Teams are typically made up of a handful of people. Designs, ideas and even mock-ups can be worked on in advance, but everyone starts writing code at the same time. And teams own whatever they come up with.

The opening stages of a hackathon can be exciting as challenges, prizes, teams and judges are in-



In this Saturday, Feb. 8, 2014 photo, Segah Meer, right, and other participants listen to speakers during the FinCapDev San Francisco Hackathon in San Francisco.

Associated Press

troduced. But within hours there's a quiet buzz and lots of keyboard clicking as programmers make their ideas a reality.

Participants arrive with sleeping bags, deodorant, toothbrushes, pillows and laptops. By morning's wee hours, pizza, energy drinks and bean bag chairs are in hot demand. Candy of all kinds is consumed, and by the time the buzzer goes off after 24 or 48 hours, most participants are disheveled and a little loopy.

Like the tech industry itself, hackathon participants are mostly men. But some organizers are trying to change

that.

There was an unusually high number of women at a hackathon at the AT&T Developer Summit in Las Vegas last month after organizers promised \$10,000 extra to any team with a majority of females. It worked; both winning teams were led by women. But in every other way, the event was typical.

"There are just four important things you need for a hackathon: food, wifi, power and people," said hackathon aficionado Mike Swift. "When you have those, people want to build together." □



In this July 30, 2012 photo provided by the U.S. Navy, a laser weapon sits temporarily installed aboard the guided-missile destroyer USS Dewey in San Diego. The Navy plans to deploy its first laser on a ship in 2014, and intends to test an electromagnetic rail gun prototype aboard a vessel within the following two years.

Associated Press

DAVID SHARP

Associated Press

BATH, Maine (AP) — Some of the Navy's futuristic weapons sound like something out of "Star Wars," with lasers designed to

shoot down aerial drones and electric guns that fire projectiles at hypersonic speeds.

That future is now.

The Navy plans to deploy its first laser on a ship later

U.S. Navy ready to deploy laser for 1st time

this year, and it intends to test an electromagnetic rail gun prototype aboard a vessel within two years. For the Navy, it's not so much about the whiz-bang technology as it is about the economics of such armaments. Both costs pennies on the dollar compared with missiles and smart bombs, and the weapons can be fired continuously, unlike missiles and bombs, which eventually run out.

"It fundamentally changes the way we fight," said Capt. Mike Ziv, program manager for directed energy and electric weapon systems for the Naval Sea Systems Command.

The Navy's laser technology has evolved to the point that a prototype to be deployed aboard the USS Ponce this summer can be operated by a single sailor,

he said.

The solid-state Laser Weapon System is designed to target what the Navy describes as "asymmetrical threats." Those include aerial drones, speed boats and swarm boats, all potential threats to warships in the Persian Gulf, where the Ponce, a floating staging base, is set to be deployed. Rail guns, which have been tested on land in Virginia, fire a projectile at six or seven times the speed of sound — enough velocity to cause severe damage. The Navy sees them as replacing or supplementing old-school guns, firing lethal projectiles from long distances.

But both systems have shortcomings.

Lasers tend to lose their effectiveness if it's raining, if it's dusty, or if there's turbu-

lence in the atmosphere, and the rail gun requires vast amount of electricity to launch the projectile, said Loren Thompson, defense analyst at the Lexington Institute.

"The Navy says it's found ways to deal with use of lasers in bad weather, but there's little doubt that the range of the weapon would be reduced by clouds, dust or precipitation," he said.

Producing enough energy for a rail gun is another problem.

The Navy's new destroyer, the Zumwalt, under construction at Bath Iron Works in Maine, is the only ship with enough electric power to run a rail gun. The stealthy ship's gas turbine-powered generators can produce up to 78 megawatts of power. □

Market focus on Italy's change of government

PAN PYLAS

AP Business Writer

LONDON (AP) — Global markets were steady on Monday as investors sought clarity over Italy's political

asked Matteo Renzi to form a new government, investors want to see how quickly he tackles reforms needed to get the economy going. Renzi, who is

Italy's leader for 10 months. Renzi argued a change of government was needed to get on with reforms. Italy only recently emerged from recession,

"While political turmoil is nothing new in Italy, the return to growth last week was, but it was meagre at best, and Renzi may not have much of a honeymoon period if all we get is more of the same," said Michael Hewson, senior market analyst at CMC Markets.

By the close, Italy's FTSE MIB index was up 0.1 percent at 20,459.65, while Germany's DAX fell 0.1 percent to 9,65.76. The CAC-40 in France ended 0.1 percent lower at 4,335.17.

The FTSE 100 in Britain outperformed its counterparts, closing 1.1 percent higher at 6,736.00, gaining momentum as it broke through the 6,700 level for the first time in over 3 weeks.

"It is not often that Europe struggles to keep pace with the bullish moves of U.K. traders, but today looks to be that exception to the rule," said Alastair McCaig, market analyst at IG. One reason why trading has proved lackluster in Europe is the fact that U.S. markets are closed for Presidents Day.

There was an equally subdued feel in currency mar-

kets, where the euro was flat at \$1.3707 and the dollar fell 0.2 percent to 101.30 yen.

Earlier, in Asia, the mood was a little bit more upbeat, after figures showed that lending by Chinese banks and in the largely unregulated underground market rebounded to 2.6 trillion yuan (\$430 billion) in January from December's 1.2 billion yuan. Lending usually surges at the start of a new year but January's rise exceeded forecasts and might help to ease worries about cooling retail sales, manufacturing and other activity.

Among the gainers was the Shanghai Composite Index, which added 0.9 percent to 2,135.41. Japan's Nikkei 225 gained 0.6 percent to 14,393.11 while Hong Kong's Hang Seng rose 1 percent to 22,520.74. Tokyo's rise came despite Japan's latest quarterly economic growth disappointing forecasters, holding steady at 0.3 percent. Growth in private consumption accelerated to 0.5 percent from the previous quarter's 0.2 percent but fell short of forecasts. □



A woman runs by an electronic stock board of a securities firm in Tokyo. Global markets were steady on Monday as investors sought clarity over Italy's political and economic future and took to the sidelines as Wall Street remained shut for a holiday. (AP Photo/Koji Sasahara)

and economic future and took to the sidelines as Wall Street remained shut for a holiday.

Now that Italy's President Giorgio Napolitano has

the mayor of Florence and poised to be the country's youngest premier at 39 years of age, engineered last week's ouster of Enrico Letta, who had only been

figures showed last week, but growth remains paltry. Its debt burden is also the second-highest in the 18-country eurozone, behind Greece.

Small business, joining a parade of outsourcing

PHYLLIS KORKKI

© 2014 New York Times

Going abroad for cheap labor isn't just for big businesses anymore. Thanks to the rise of online job marketplaces, small businesses are increasingly using foreign contract workers to lower their costs.

It's a trend that has the potential to redistribute global wealth, say a group of researchers in a recent working paper published by the National Bureau of Economic Research.

For businesses hiring people for one-time projects in areas like software development, website design, customer service and translation, there is no longer a need to stay local. A company in New York can arrange for someone in Uzbekistan to create its website, for example. And chances are that the Uzbek worker will be willing to

work for much less pay than a comparable one in New York. But finding those people and dealing with payment isn't something that a typical business has time to handle. That's where online marketplaces like oDesk, Elance (which recently merged with oDesk), Freelancer and Guru come in. They post workers' skills and portfolios, solicit and publish reviews, and arrange for payment, taking a cut of each transaction.

ODesk created its online marketplace in 2005, and the company has grown quickly since. The number of employers billing on the site per quarter rose by more than 900 percent from 2009 to 2013; in the same period, the number of working freelancers per quarter rose about 1,000 percent. Activity on these sites consists mainly of companies in high-income

countries hiring workers in low-income ones, said Ajay Agrawal, a professor of entrepreneurship at the University of Toronto and one of the authors of the study. Contractors in low-income countries with the right skills can receive a substantial wage boost by participating in an online marketplace, he said. "They can go on the platform and see which jobs are in most demand and learn those skills."

Contractors from Bangladesh and the Philippines, for example, "earn significantly more than local minimum wages, perhaps partly explaining their disproportionate use of the platform," according to the paper. Technology skills tend to command higher wages. On average, software developers were able to make around \$16 an hour, whereas ad-

ministrative support paid \$4, the paper said. (Projects can also be per-



Small businesses are increasingly seeing the opportunity to outsource work overseas, and many are turning to online marketplaces like oDesk, Freelancer and Guru to find talent and arrange payments. (Michael Waraksa/The New York Times)

formed at a fixed rate instead of an hourly one.) But might a U.S. business

hesitate to hire someone halfway across the globe - especially in a non-English-speaking country? The quality of work produced will always be an issue for online marketplaces, wherever the workers are based. That's why the ratings and reviews on the sites are so important.

Amanda Pallais, an assistant professor of economics and social studies at Harvard, ran an experiment involving oDesk transactions. It showed that, on average, contractors who had ratings with their profiles greatly increased their earnings and rates of employment. (This was the case even though negative ratings were included in the averages.)

The digital outsourcing of contract work is "good for American small business - that's who's really using this," Agrawal said. □

Hong Kong Disneyland turns profit once again

HONG KONG (AP) — Turning a page on years of losses, Hong Kong Disneyland said Monday it was profitable for a second straight year and plans to build a third hotel to help cater to rising numbers of visitors.

The theme park in the southern Chinese city more than doubled its profit to 242 million Hong Kong dollars (\$31 million) in the year to September. Revenue climbed 15 percent to HK\$4.9 billion as visitors rose 10 percent to a high of 7.4 million.

The park had struggled after opening in 2005, with its poor performance blamed on its small size. But it became profitable in 2012 thanks to new attractions that drew more visitors, especially from mainland China.

Officials announced plans to build a 750-room resort-hotel that will cost HK\$4.3 billion and is expected to open by early 2017. The new hotel will raise total room capacity by three-quarters to 1,750.

"Expansion plans are in place to sustain the momentum of growth and capture increasing demand especially in the light of growing tourism in the region," said Andrew Kam, the park's managing director.

The Hong Kong government owns 52 percent of the park, with the Walt Disney Co. owning the rest. It's still the smallest of Disney's parks worldwide but an expansion project completed last year added 25 percent to its size.

The park is also building a new attraction based on the "Iron Man" movie franchise, which is wildly popular in mainland China. It's scheduled to open in late 2016. The new projects will help Hong Kong Disneyland stay competitive with a Disney park under construction in Shanghai that's expected to open in 2015. □

Smart Money:

Beware of the End-of-Year 401(k) Match

RON LIEBER

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AOL's chief executive Tim Armstrong drew plenty of attention earlier this month when he seemed to attribute a change in the company's 401(k) plan in part on a couple of employees whose infants required expensive care. But what was mostly lost in the discussion was just how much it would cost employees if every employer tried to do what AOL did. The answer? Close to \$50,000 in today's dollars by the time they retired, according to calculations that the 401(k) and mutual fund giant Vanguard made this week. That buys a lot of trips to see the grandchildren - or scores of nights in a nursing home. Armstrong ultimately reversed the change after the uproar over the singling out of particular employees. Still, everyone who saves in a 401(k) or similar plan needs to take a close look at what AOL was trying to do, so they can recognize it and protest if their employer tries to do something like it. While there are plenty of federal regulations governing the basic administration and safeguarding of employer-provided retirement accounts, companies have a lot of leeway to alter their own plans in ways that can cost employees plenty. AOL's attempt is an unpleasant reminder that employers can and will make changes to employee benefits programs for any reason at all.

Most companies that match your contributions to a workplace retirement account deposit that match each time you get a paycheck. AOL wanted to wait until the end of each year and deposit any match all at once. People who left the company during the year, by choice or by layoff, would have gotten no match at all, not even a prorated one.

Not many companies have adopted these so-called last-day rules so far. As of the end of 2011, just 7 percent of clients at the ben-

efits consulting firm Mercer deposited their 401(k) matches annually. Aon Hewitt's 2013 study put the

into reversing its move. It refused, and it was hard to make IBM the boogeyman given that its 401(k)

offers free comprehensive financial planning to employees, something more employers ought to offer.

Those last-day-rule survey numbers haven't grown much over time, not yet anyway. But there is reason for concern. The IBM move drew enough notice that a move to year-end 401(k) contributions is now on the menu of cost-saving changes that many employers consider each year. How much they could save depends on annual staff turnover, among other things.

As more employers automatically enroll employees in the 401(k) plans, those employers are naturally paying more in matches. Sometimes it doesn't cost that much more, say if more than 90 percent of employees are already participating. But Rob Austin, the director of retirement research at Aon Hewitt, says that in rare cases the cost increase could approach 25 percent.

That money has to come from somewhere, and some employers may be willing to bet that workers won't understand the impact of a move to a last-day rule. But if every employer made a similar move, the numbers would grow quite large. Vanguard ran two calculations for me over a 40-year period, assuming the employee worked from age 25 to 65. □



So-called last-day rules allow a company to put its 401(k) contribution on the last day of the year, which deprives employees of some benefits.

(Robert Neubecker/The New York Times)

number at 8 percent. The latest Plan Sponsor Council of America survey puts the figure at 17 percent.

Last-day rules tend to be a bit more popular among banks. There, however, it may not hurt employees quite as much, because employees tend not to walk out under their own power until after they've gotten their year-end bonus. If they hang around long enough to cash that check, their match will have already cleared. (Midyear retirees usually get their matches as well.) IBM generated a fair bit of attention in late 2012 when it adopted a last-day rule, and a couple of U.S. senators tried to pressure it

match is extremely generous compared with most other companies. It also

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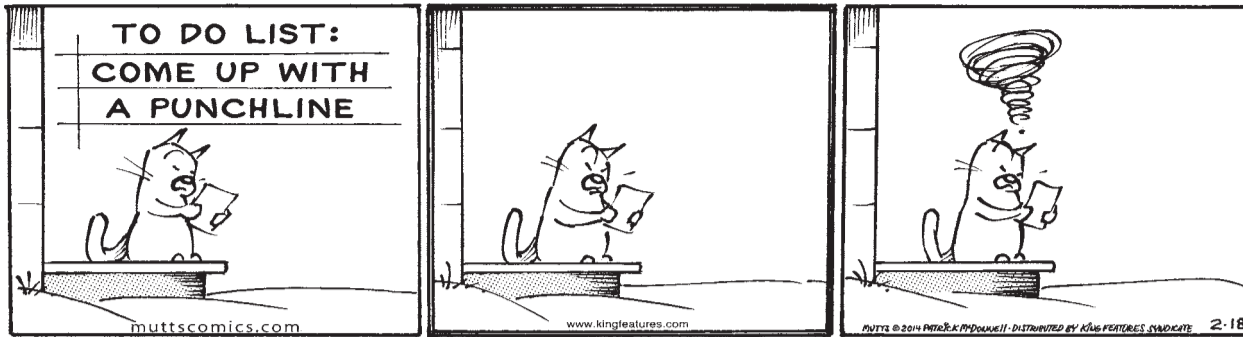
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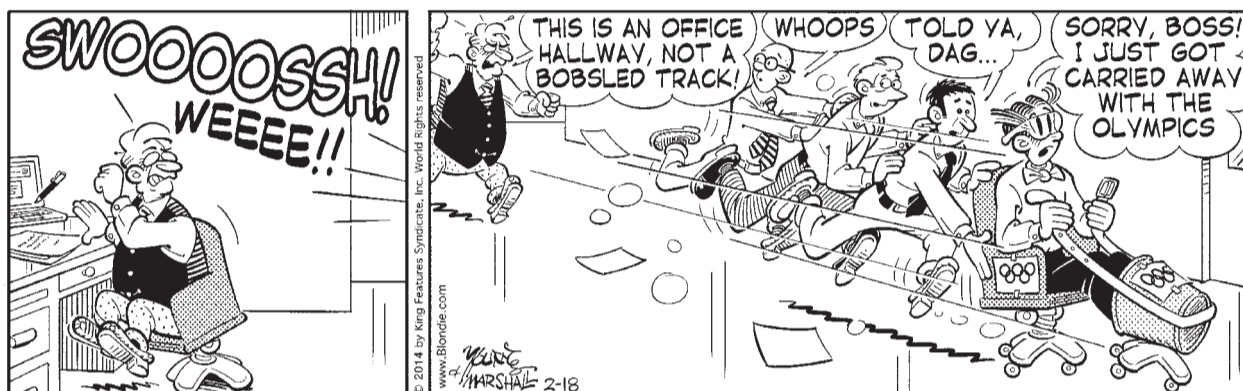
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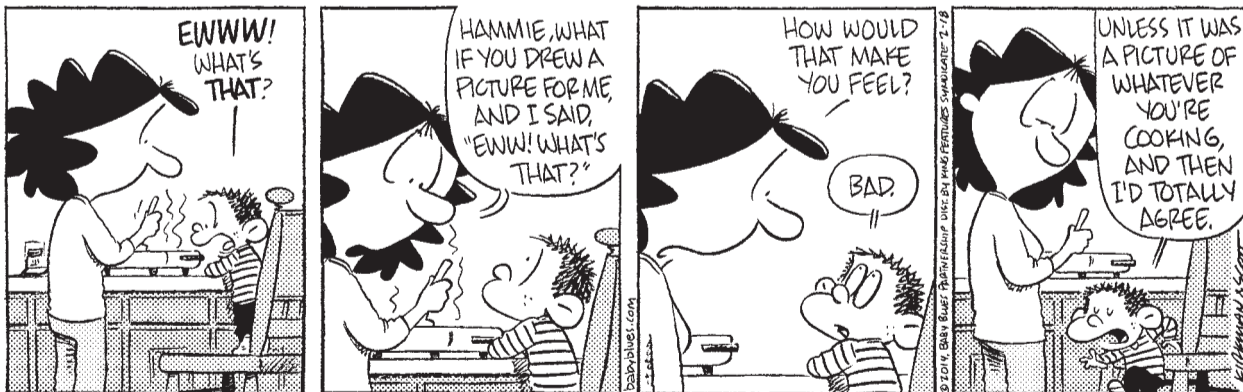
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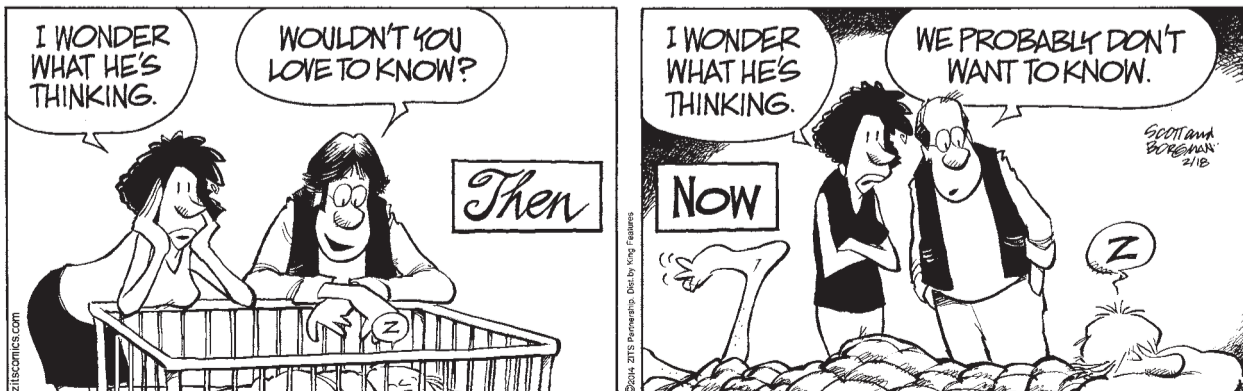
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

9		3			7	1		4
					9			
			1		4		7	
1	2			7				
		8		3		9		
				9			5	7
		7		8		5		
			5					
6		4	7			2		9

Difficulty Level ★★

2/18

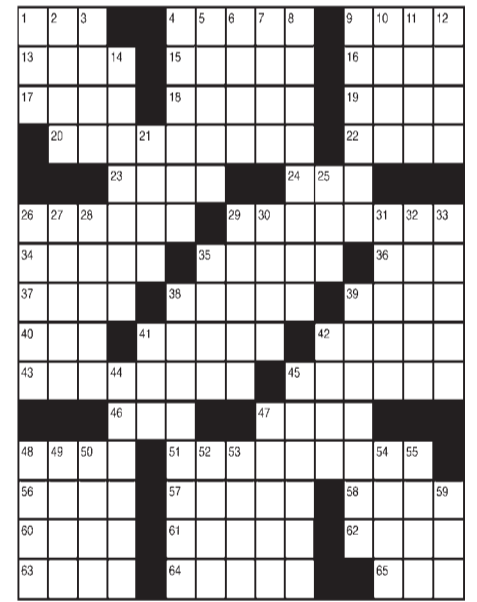
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

1	6	2	7	4	8	9	5	3
8	5	9	3	6	1	2	4	7
7	4	3	5	2	9	6	1	8
9	1	7	8	5	2	4	3	6
3	2	4	6	9	7	1	8	5
5	8	6	4	1	3	7	2	9
2	3	5	1	7	6	8	9	4
6	9	8	2	3	4	5	7	1
4	7	1	9	8	5	3	6	2

ACROSS

- Poke
- Shopping ____; spending fling
- Lay ____; attack verbally
- "By the Time ____ to Phoenix"
- Spotless
- ____ and groan; complain
- Trepidation
- Laughs loudly
- Matador's opponent
- "Beat it!"
- Like leaky pens
- Exhausts
- Unruly crowd
- Sudden muscle contractions
- San Francisco transport
- Walking sticks
- Youngster
- Afternoon hour
- Likelihood
- Napped leather
- King's errand boy
- Suffix for direct or contradict
- Dog's woes
- Thinking clearly; sane
- Most annoying
- Uses rod & reel
- Feasted
- Plate
- Bangkok native
- Has ____; could be successful
- BBQ favorites
- Shed crocodile tears
- Heroic poem
- Doing nothing
- Equestrian
- City in Nevada
- Look searchingly
- One ____ house; rambler
- Make clothes



Monday's Puzzle Solved

BIRD	SLAPS	FLOP
USER	TEPEE	IOWA
SLAY	REENTERING	
YES	LADS	RINSE
OBEYS	DON	
ARNES	LODGER	
ROADS	PAYEE	SAG
EBBS	SLURS	STIR
AIL	STAGE	CHIDE
NEATEN	FLIMSY	
DAM	DIANA	
ABDUL	BAND	TAT
REALESTATE	RICE	
CANT	EIDER	HOME
HUES	NEEDY	ONES

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- Grows older
- Bird's bill
- Leftover bits
- Trudges
- ____ up on; find info about
- British noble
- Musical group
- Drink
- Person, place or thing
- Discussion
- "For Your Eyes ____"; 007 movie
- Locks of hair
- Hoover and Aswan
- Ancient
- Serving of ice cream
- Army chaplain
- Griffith and Warhol
- Swindle
- Assists
- Team director
- Actress ____
- Dickinson
- Marsh grasses

- Hints to actors
- Slumberers
- More aggressive
- In good shape
- Shopper's paper
- Type of roll
- Elegant apparel
- Dissuade
- Stumble
- Conceal
- Up to the task
- Leave out
- Hustle & bustle
- Primates
- Queue
- Dairy animal

GOP

Continued from Page 5

A liberal super PAC began airing ads last week in North Carolina and Arkansas - the two states with perhaps the most vulnerable Democratic incumbents, and where Americans for Prosperity has already spent millions - but Democratic strategists acknowledge that their candidates are being damaged by the television onslaught.

"The spending has had a clear and meaningful impact on our incumbents, and they have not had the resources to fight back," said a Democratic pollster working on some of the most hard-fought races this year.

One Democratic senator, speaking on the condition of anonymity to discuss internal party deliberations, said the two recurring areas of concern brought up at weekly lunches had been the soaring outside spending by conservatives and "the consequences of Obamacare."

Democrats say their party's standing was driven down not just by the bungled roll-out of the new health law, but most notably by the pledge from Obama and many Democratic senators that people could keep their existing health insurance plans.

"People see national polling, and maybe the national polling is getting a little bit tougher," said Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., chairman of the Democratic National Committee. "But at the end of the day, it ain't about national polling, it's about individual races."

While they say they are not panicked, top Democrats acknowledge that the landscape looks worse for them than they had anticipated. But last week, they got what they saw as a leg up in Montana's Senate race when John Walsh, the Democratic candidate, was installed in the Senate in place of Max Baucus, who became ambassador to China. Walsh was on television Friday with a new ad that highlighted his combat service in Iraq. □

Classifieds

RED/WEEK Resales

Marriott Surf Club

2x2Br Platinum O.V. \$16Kpw
3x2 Br Garden view \$15K pw
Marriott Ocean Club
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2 Br Platinum O.F. \$29K
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johnnypaesch@gmail.com

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RED/WEEK Resales

Divi Village

Stu wk 5 Room # 8202 \$7K
Aruba Divi Phoenix
Std wk 8 Room # 105 \$7K
Std wk 9 Room # 1204 \$7K
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johnnypaesch@gmail.com

201401

RED/WEEK Resales

Eagle Beach Front

Amsterdam Manor

all 52 weeks 2 bedroom, 2 bath Room # 213 \$450K
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Free listings free information
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RED/WEEK Resales

Dutch Village

studio wk 8 Rm #133
(20 weeks remain on contract)
\$6K C.P.V.
2 br wk 6 Rm #E202 \$12K
info: (297)562-0712
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

201401

RED/WEEK Resales

Divi Links Golf

ocean view top floor studio
\$7K each week 7 and 8
Rm 4225
Divi Phoenix
studio wk 6 room 752 \$7K each
call (297) 562-0712
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

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week 9 march 01-08
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GOLD Season
OS \$10k OV \$9500
Oceanfront \$17k
3 BEDRM OV \$17,000

Marriott Aruba Ocean Club

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Oceanfront PLAT \$29k
Platinum 1B OV \$11,500
Gold season 2B OV \$9,000
Oceanfront 2B \$14,500
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201401

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pa Prohimo

Tel: 583-3345 /586-6976

Women in Difficulties

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Tel: 583-5400

Bloodbank Aruba

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U.S. archeologists race to uncover Civil War prison

SUSANNE M. SCHAFER

Associated Press

COLUMBIA, South Carolina (AP) — Racing against time, South Carolina archeologists are digging to uncover the remnants of a Civil War-era prisoner-of-war camp before the site in downtown Columbia is cleared to make room for a mixed-use development. The researchers have been given four months to excavate a small portion of the 165-acre (66.7-hectare) grounds of the former South Carolina State Hospital to find the remnants of what was once known as "Camp Asylum." Conditions at the camp, which held 1,500 Union Army officers during the winter of 1864-65, were so dire that soldiers dug and lived in holes in the ground, which provided shelter against the cold. The site was sold to a developer for \$15 million last summer, amid hopes it becomes an urban campus of shops and apartments and possibly a minor league baseball field. Chief archaeologist Chester DePratter said researchers are digging through soil to locate the holes — the



In this Jan. 30, 2014 photo, University of South Carolina research archaeologist Chester DePratter stands by the archaeological dig of "Camp Asylum," the Civil War-era prison that once held 1,500 Union officers on the grounds of the state mental hospital in Columbia, S.C., in the waning days of the Civil War.

Associated Press

largest being 7 feet (2.1 meters) long, 6 feet (1.8 meters) wide and 3 feet (90 centimeters) deep — as well as whatever possessions the officers may have left behind. "Almost everybody lived in holes, although the Confederacy did try to procure tents along the way, as they could obtain them," said DePratter, a research archaeologist with the University of South Carolina's Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology. DePratter said he's been able to track down about

40 diaries written by camp survivors, telling tales of suffering and survival, as well as dozens of letters written by the prisoners about their experiences. He said they came from states across the North, and from many different military units. "It's hard to imagine. They all talk about their clothing being threadbare, many of them had no shoes. They shared the blankets they had, three or four together spoon fashion and put a blanket over them" to stay warm, DePratter

said. "They wrote about how every prisoner in the camp would walk about at night to keep from freezing to death." Amazingly, only one officer died there. Officers were useful for prisoner exchanges, so they were shuttled from site to site as the war progressed. The enlisted men were sent to the notorious prison at Andersonville, Georgia, where 12,000 Union soldiers died of illness and privation. The officers, however, were held in Richmond, Virginia, then Macon, Georgia, before being sent to Savannah and Charleston, South Carolina. After a yellow fever outbreak in Charleston, they were brought to Columbia, where they were put in an open field dubbed "Camp Sorghum" on the western side of the Congaree River across from Columbia. But when hundreds started escaping into the surrounding countryside, they were shifted to the mental hospital's grounds, which are surrounded by a 10-foot (3-meter) brick wall. As the researchers dig and sift the reddish earth, they uncover buttons, combs, remnants of clothing and

utensils presumably used by the prisoners. One hole contained crudely made bricks the prisoners fashioned by hand, which they stacked to offer protection from the wind and rain. The developer has given DePratter \$25,000, which has been matched by the city, to start his dig. He's been able to raise another \$17,000. DePratter is hoping to raise additional funds to pay for ground-penetrating radar to avoid the utility pipes that crisscross the site. He has until the end of April to dig out as much as he can. Everything the crew finds is going to be held for preservation and study through the archaeology institute, he said. Tours — set up through the Historic Columbia Foundation at \$10 per person — are being conducted to help bring attention to the archaeology project. Eric Leonard, the director of education at the Andersonville National Historic Site in Georgia, which also houses a prisoner of war museum, said it is important to uncover the histories of prisoners even if it is an unpleasant topic. □

Study: Arctic getting darker, making Earth warmer

SETH BORENSTEIN
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Arctic isn't nearly as bright and white as it used to be because of more ice melting in the ocean, and that's turning out to be a global problem, a new study says. With more dark, open water in the summer, less of the sun's heat is reflected back into space. So the entire Earth is absorbing more heat than expected,

according to a study published Monday in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. That extra absorbed energy is so big that it measures about one-quarter of the entire heat-trapping effect of carbon dioxide, said the study's lead author, Ian Eisenman, a climate scientist at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in California. The Arctic grew 8 percent

darker between 1979 and 2011, Eisenman found, measuring how much sunlight is reflected back into space. "Basically, it means more warming," Eisenman said in an interview. The North Pole region is an ocean that mostly is crusted at the top with ice that shrinks in the summer and grows back in the fall. At its peak melt in September, the ice has shrunk on average by nearly 35,000 square miles (90,650 sq. kilometers) — about the size of Maine — per year since 1979. Snow-covered ice reflects several times more heat than dark, open ocean, which replaces the ice when it melts, Eisenman said. As more summer sunlight dumps into the ocean, the



This handout photo provided by The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) shows Arctic sea ice earlier this year.

Associated Press

water gets warmer, and it takes longer for ice to form again in the fall, Jason Box of the Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland said in an email. He was not part of the study. While earlier studies used computer models, Eisenman said his is the first to use satellite measurements to gauge sunlight reflection and to take into ac-

count cloud cover. The results show the darkening is as much as two to three times bigger than previous estimates, he said. Box and University of Colorado ice scientist Waleed Abdalati, who was not part of the research, called the work important in understanding how much heat is getting trapped on Earth. □

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Oscars rich in tales of wealthy and poor

JAKE COYLE

AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Early in "Captain Phillips," the cargo ship captain (Tom Hanks) and his wife (Catherine Keener) drive from their Vermont home to the airport where he'll take a flight to his next job, one that will bring him face-to-face with the less fortunate on the other side of the globe. Like the chatter of so many couples, their conversation turns to their general feeling of economic uncertainty.

"It just seems like the world's movin' so fast," says Phillips, wondering about the future their kids will inherit. "Big wheels are turning."

This year, many of the Academy Award-nominated films bubble with such undercurrents of worry, navigating the deep waters that separate the haves and the have-nots. The lavish Oscar ceremony may be one of the highest profile parties of the year for the chosen few, but the theme of inequality is just as visible in the season's nominees — from the dusty, dying towns of "Nebraska" to the Madoff-like fall-from-grace in "Blue Jasmine." Tales of con-artists striving to short-cut their way to wealth ("American Hustle," "The Wolf of Wall

Street"), including best picture, is the most hotly debated. Though set in the late 1980s and early 1990s, its portrait of stock broker excess has struck a chord with contemporary viewers. But it has polarized moviegoers over whether it glorifies the over-indulgence of Jordan Belfort (Leonardo DiCaprio).

"What's the emotion behind making the picture?" says Scorsese. "There's a lot of anger. I didn't go hang out in Zuccotti Park, so this is a way of expressing the frustration and also recognizing it. It's not going to go away if you don't look at it."

Since a film typically demands years of work, the movies can take a while to catch up to societal trends. Many of this year's Oscar candidates were being written or planned as Occupy Wall Street protesters swarmed downtown New York in late 2011, and outrage grew at the expanding distance between the poor and wealthy.

Though some films were initially conceived before such issues were in the headlines, movies can take on the energy of their times during production. Payne's "Nebraska," nominated in six categories including best picture, is about an



This image released by Paramount shows, from left, Katarina Cas, Jonah Hill, Leonardo DiCaprio, Margot Robbie and Jon Bernthal in a scene from "The Wolf of Wall Street."

Associated Press

basement theme of waste and depression and forlornness. ... So, yeah, all those elements showed up even more palpably in the film because of the time in which we were making it." Woody Allen's "Blue Jasmine," up for three Oscars including best actress for Cate Blanchett, was inspired, Allen has said, by a New York family ruined by the financial collapse. Playing a Manhattan socialite both before and after her husband's fraud is revealed, Blanchett drew from interviews with Ruth Madoff.

"It wasn't the monumental, historic fraud that her husband perpetrated," says Blanchett. "It was the domestic betrayal of the affair that in the end she found most painful and morally repugnant."

Blanchett's Jasmine lives a life of fiction as bankrupt as her checking account. In David O. Russell's "American Hustle" (nominated for 10 Oscars including best picture), nearly everyone is living some kind of fantasy — and hoping to cash in.

"We're all conning ourselves one way or another, just to get through life," says Christian Bale's Irving Rosenfeld as he combs over a hair piece.

There's also a pervasive



This image released by Paramount Pictures shows Will Forte as David Grant, left, and Bruce Dern as Woody Grant in a scene from the film "Nebraska."

Associated Press



This film image released by Sony - Columbia Pictures shows Tom Hanks, center, in a scene from "Captain Phillips."

Associated Press

Street") are joined by stories of detached observers of decadence ("The Great Beauty," "The Great Gatsby").

Of these films, Martin Scorsese's "The Wolf of Wall Street," with five nomina-

aging working-class man (Bruce Dern) who believes he's won \$1 million from a junk mail sweepstakes.

Payne says his black-and-white film about barren Midwest lives, while "a little comedy," has a "sub-

theme of simple survival in some of the best films of 2013, from the lost-in-space adventure "Gravity" (10 nominations) to the slave odyssey "12 Years a Slave" (nine nods). In the minimalist shipwreck drama "All Is Lost" (one nomination), a sailor's boat is randomly damaged by the detritus of global commerce: a shipping container.

Baz Luhrmann's "Gatsby" (two nominations) and Italy's "The Great Beauty" (the foreign-language film favorite) both revel in and recoil at the nightlife of decaying eras: late '20s New York or modern Rome.

DiCaprio, star of "Gats-

by" and "The Wolf of Wall Street," marvels at history's redundancy.

"Look at us right now," he says. "We've had this gigantic economic crash but a few years later, here we are and everything's sort of recalibrated itself and the economy's booming." Yet while period films with contemporary overtones have been lauded by the Academy, many of the most current films were passed over: Harmony Korine's neon nightmare "Spring Breakers," Sofia Coppola's teenage robbery caper "The Bling Ring" and Michael Bay's beefed-up satire "Pain & Gain." □

94-year-old Heimlich maneuver namesake pens memoir

LISA CORNWELL

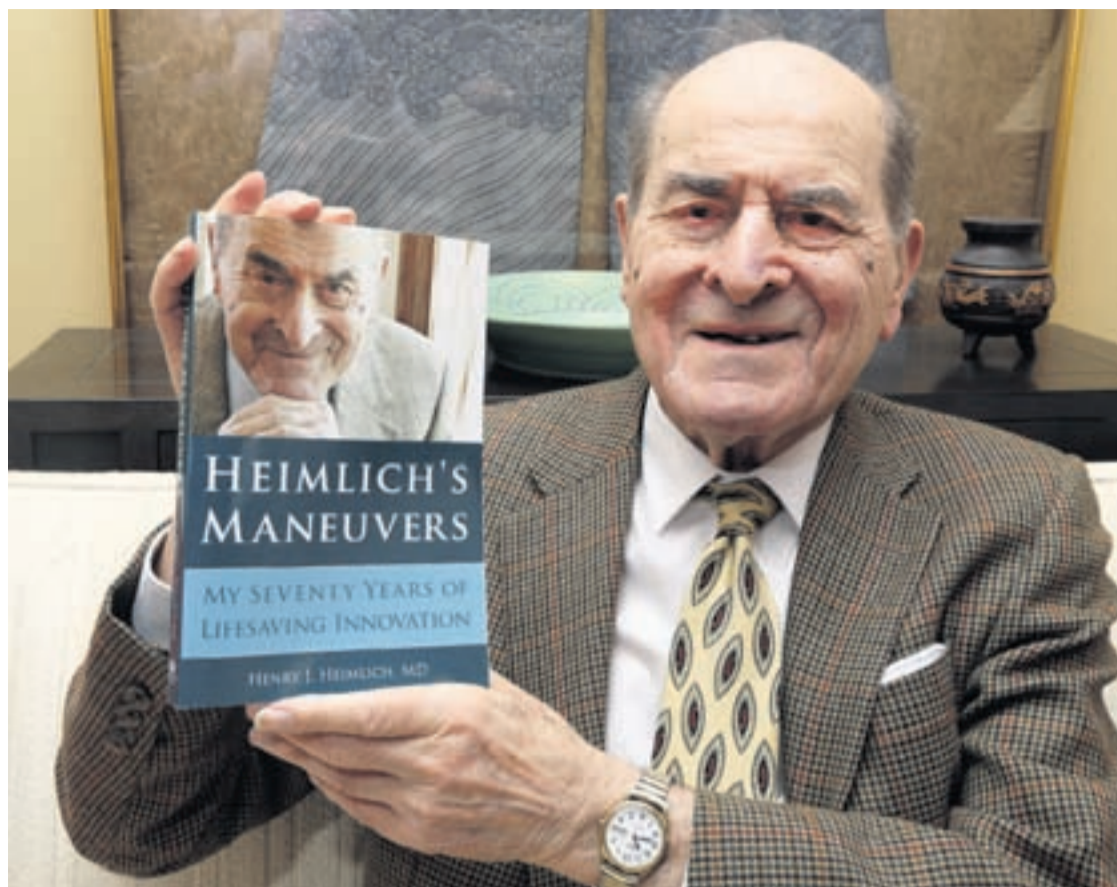
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CINCINNATI (AP) — The surgeon who wrote the book on saving choking victims through his namesake Heimlich maneuver has now penned a new book: his memoir.

Dr. Henry Heimlich's views on how the maneuver should be used and on other innovations he has created or proposed have put him at odds with some in the health field. But he hopes his recently published memoir will preserve the technique that has cleared obstructions from windpipes of choking victims around the world for four decades and made his name a household word.

"I know the maneuver saves lives, and I want it to be used and remembered," the 94-year-old retired chest surgeon told The Associated Press this month. "I felt I had to have it down in print so the public will have the correct information."

Much of his autobiography — "Heimlich's Maneuvers: My Seventy Years of Life-



In this Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2014 photo, Dr. Henry Heimlich holds his memoirs prior to being interviewed at his home in Cincinnati.

saving Innovation" — focuses on the maneuver, which involves thrusts to the abdomen that apply upward pressure on the diaphragm to create an air flow forcing food or other objects out of the windpipe.

Heimlich says thousands of deaths reported annually from choking prompted him in 1972 to seek a solution. Over the next two years, leading a team of researchers at Jewish Hospital in Cincinnati, he successfully tested the tech-

nique by putting a tube with a balloon at one end down an anesthetized dog's airway until it choked. He then used the maneuver to force the dog to expel the obstruction.

"By 1974, I knew I needed to get the maneuver to the public as soon as possible to save lives," he said.

He appeared on radio and television shows including "Good Morning America" and "The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson" and started hearing from people who had used the maneuver or been saved by it.

The maneuver made headlines again this month. Clint Eastwood was attending a golf event in California when the 83-year-old actor saw the tournament director choking on a piece of cheese and successfully performed the technique.

"The best thing about it is that it allows anyone to save a life," Heimlich said.

Heimlich says the maneuver is very effective when used correctly, but he does not approve of American Red Cross guidelines calling for back blows followed by abdominal thrusts in choking cases that don't involve infants or

unconscious victims. Red Cross officials say evidence shows using multiple methods can be more effective, but Heimlich says blows can drive obstructions deeper into a windpipe. The American Heart Association backs abdominal thrusts.

Neither organization supports Heimlich's view that using the maneuver to remove water from the lungs could save drowning victims. They recommend CPR.

"There is no evidence that abdominal thrusts are effective for drowning victims," said Dr. Robert Neumar, chairman of the Emergency Cardiovascular Care Committee of the American Heart Association.

Heimlich points with pride to some of his other innovations, such as a chest drain valve credited by some with saving soldiers and civilians during the Vietnam War. But he has drawn sharp criticism for his theory that injecting patients with a curable form of malaria could trigger immunity in patients with the HIV virus that causes AIDS. Medical experts have said injecting patients with malaria would be dangerous and have criticized Heimlich for conducting studies involving malariotherapy on HIV patients in China.

Heimlich mostly brushes off criticism about his work.

"I'll be the first to admit that a number of my ideas are controversial and in some ways unorthodox," Heimlich said. "But I have enough guts to know that when I am right, it will come about as the thing to do, even if others do the wrong thing for a time."

Heimlich now lives in an assisted-living facility but responds to emails and letters about his work and makes guest appearances with the Heimlich Heroes program. The program designed to teach young people how to use the Heimlich maneuver allows him to still pursue his passion for saving lives. □

2nd thriller due from J.K. Rowling alter ego Galbraith

LONDON (AP) — J.K. Rowling is back with a novel involving a writer whose acid-tipped pen may have led to murder.

Publisher Little, Brown said Monday that it is publishing a second book by Robert Galbraith, the "Harry Potter" author's thriller-writing pseudonym.

"The Silkworm" sees the return of detective Cormoran Strike, the ex-soldier hero introduced in "The Cuckoo's Calling." In the new book, Strike investigates the disappearance of a novelist who has written a book that features

scathing descriptions of real people.

"The Cuckoo's Calling" initially attracted little notice when it was published last year, but rocketed up the charts once Rowling was exposed as its author.

A lawyer has been fined for letting slip the writer's identity.

"The Silkworm" will be published June 19 in Britain and June 24 in the U.S. □



In this file photo dated Thursday, Sept. 27, 2012 British author J.K. Rowling poses for photographers at the Southbank Centre in London.

Associated Press

The Refiner's Fire



DAVID BROOKS
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In 2005, Michael Ignatieff left a teaching job at Harvard to enter politics in his native Canada with hopes of becoming prime minister.

He quickly came to understand how politics is different from academia. In academia, you use words to persuade or discover; in politics, you use words to establish a connection. Academia is a cerebral enterprise, but politics is a physical enterprise, a charismatic form of athletics in which you touch people to show you care.

In academia, the goal is to come up with a timeless truth. In politics, timing is everything, knowing when the time is ripe for a certain proposal. In academia, the idea is to take a stand based on what you believe; in politics, the idea is to position yourself along a left-right axis in a way that will differentiate you from your opponents and help you win a majority.

In academia, a certain false modesty is encouraged; in politics, you have to self-dramatize a fable about yourself - concoct a story to show how your life connects to certain policies. In academia, you are rewarded for candor, intellectual rigor and a willingness to follow an idea to its logical conclusion. In politics, all of these traits are ruinous.

Naturally, Ignatieff found the transition to politics more difficult than he imagined. He started his career well enough. He was elected to Parliament. Within a year, he was a deputy party leader, and, within a few years, he was leader of Canada's Liberal Party.

But he was in over his head and the victim of inexorable historical trends. He was not an effective opposition leader. In his first national election, he and his party were crushed. Ignatieff even lost his own parliamentary seat. It was a humiliating failure that ended his political career.

Fortunately, he did not return with empty hands. His memoir, "Fire and Ashes: Success and Failure in Politics," is the best book about what it feels like to be a politician since Richard Ben Cramer's "What It Takes." Ignatieff was first invited to run for office by some backstage power brokers, even though he hadn't lived in his country

for 30 years. He agreed but wasn't initially sure why he wanted to do it beyond some vague sense that it would honor his parents.

He was betrayed by old friends. He endured unearned and lofty condescension from political columnists. In Parliament, he became a total partisan, putting, as one must, loyalty to the group above loyalty to truth. He had no friends who were not in his own party. He loathed the other side.

"We never wasted a single breath trying to convince each other of anything," he recalls.

He learned that when you are attacking your opponent, you have to hit his strengths because his weaknesses will take care of themselves. Political discourse, he came to see, is not really a debate about issues; it is a verbal contest to deny your opponents of standing, or as we would say, legitimacy.

"Of the three elections that I fought, none was a debate on the country's future," he says. "All were vicious battles over standing."

During the course of his career he endured the character tests that all honest politicians face. "Politics tests your capacity for self-knowledge more than any profession I know," he writes.

He would look at himself in the mirror, wearing the suits that the image crafters had selected, and feel as though he had been taken over by some strange new persona he barely recognized. He went through each day completely dependent on the reaction of other people, minute by minute, second by second, to validate his performance. After poor showings at question time, he'd go to the washroom, no longer sure he was up to the job, confronting the mistakes that suggested he wasn't. "I had never been so well-dressed in my life and had never felt so hollow."

But Ignatieff ultimately delivers a strong defense of politics. Politicians should never imagine themselves superior to the process they are engaged in. Politicians bind people together into communities and nations, he argues. To be a politician is to be "worldly and sinful and yet faithful and fearless at the same time. You put your own immodest ambitions in the service of others. You hope that your ambitions will be redeemed by the good you do." Politics, as Max Weber famously said, is the necessary work of strong and slow boring through hard boards. People who do it out of a sense of selfishness and vanity often give up, because the life can be miserable. The people who sustain are usually motivated by a sense of service, and by evidence of the good that laws and programs can do. Ignatieff failed at politics, but through the refiner's fire of the political climb, he realized what a tainted but worthwhile calling it can be. □



Innovation, Optimism and Jobs



JOE NOCERA
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Is digital technology destroying middle-class jobs? Does it exacerbate income inequality? Does it boost economic growth and productivity - without creating the jobs that ought to come with economic growth? Last month I gave space to a book titled "Who Owns the Future?" by the computer scientist Jaron Lanier. His answer was an unequivocal yes. He tellingly compared the great photography company of the analog age, Kodak, with the hot photography company of the moment, Instagram. At its peak, Kodak employed 140,000 people; Instagram had only 13 employees when it was bought by Facebook (for \$1 billion!) in 2012.

Lanier isn't the only one to have noticed the Kodak-Instagram example. So have Erik Brynjolfsson and Andrew McAfee, two economists from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, whose newly published book is titled "The Second Machine Age." As they put it, "Rapid and accelerating digitization is likely to bring economic growth rather than environmental disruption, stemming from the fact that as computers get more powerful, companies have less need for some kinds of workers."

In some ways, "The Second Machine Age" is an odd book. For the most part, its tone is one of sunny optimism about all the

wonderful things technology will soon bring us, from driverless cars to more powerful forms of artificial intelligence. "Innovation," they write, is the "most important force that makes our society wealthier." The authors believe that we are at a moment when technological innovation is about to accelerate, and make the world much wealthier, just as the Industrial Revolution did 250 years ago. Yet buried in their sunny prose is a darker forecast: That while this digital revolution will be great for innovators, entrepreneurs and other creative people, not everyone will participate - especially those who do jobs that software can do better. The authors label the good that technology will do "the bounty." The downside they call "the spread."

Not everybody buys the technology-is-going-to-change-everything mantra espoused by Brynjolfsson and McAfee. Robert J. Gordon, a macroeconomist at Northwestern University, calls them "techno-optimists." In his view, the next 40 years of innovation is not going to look much different from the past 40 years, which he believes haven't been nearly as transformative or wealth-creating as the discovery of electricity and the invention of the light bulb.

Unlike Brynjolfsson and McAfee, Gordon believes that economic growth is going to be anemic for years to come, and that, he says, has nothing to do with the rate of technological innovation. Rather, he describes a series of "headwinds" facing the U.S. economy: a stagnant educational system and income inequality, for starters. When I asked him whether future innovation would cost jobs, he said he thought it would, but no more or less than has always been the case.

In truth, it is probably too early to know whether this round of technological innovation will ultimately cost or create jobs. The history of innovation has also been a history of job creation

- though not necessarily right away. After people figured out how to harness electricity, it took decades before businessmen figured out how to maximize its use in factories.

It also required both behavioral and governmental change. People had to abandon farms, move to cities and undertake very different kinds of lives. Factories used children as workers, until governments passed child labor laws.

In America, as the country became industrialized, free education became the law of the land. It was one of the greatest policy decisions ever. The authors of "The Second Machine Age" contend that we don't have to be "tech determinists," as Brynjolfsson put it when we spoke; we also have the ability to take control of our destiny rather than letting technology take control of us.

On Friday, I called Tyler Cowen, the George Mason University economist (and a contributor to The New York Times) to ask what he thought about the relationship between technological innovation and jobs. He told me that he mostly agreed with Brynjolfsson and McAfee about the future, though he disagreed with their assessment of the past. (One of his recent books is titled "The Great Stagnation.")

Yes, he said, technology would replace humans for certain kinds of jobs, but he could also envision growth in the service sector. "The jobs will be better than they sound," he said. "A lot of them will require skill and training, and will also pay well. I think we'll get to driverless cars and much better versions of Siri fairly soon," he added. "That will make the rate of labor force participation go down."

Then he chuckled. He had recently been in a meeting with someone, explaining his views. "So what you're saying," the man concluded, "is that the pessimists are right. But it's going to be much better than they think." □

Sochi: The Oddities of an Overpriced Party

DAVID SEGAL

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SOCHI, Russia - Snicker all you like at the well-publicized oddities and spectacular expense of these Winter Games, but give it up for the train that delivers visitors to Olympic Park. A digital sign on the platform at the next-to-last stop says that it will arrive at 1:14 and

see a gantlet of pavilions run by sponsors. What you see next is an amusement park, which, inexplicably, is closed.

Yes, closed. A yellow curlicue roller coaster, and a purple U-shaped tummy churner and a bunch of other rides - all of them as still as a parked car. Did someone forget to tell these

offer to pay for something that costs 100 rubles - not quite \$3 - with a 500-ruble note and you get a sorrowful, slightly wounded look that says, "Miracles? You expect miracles?"

Once you get over the small-change shortage, what strikes you is how surprisingly unexotic Olympic Park looks. Maybe it is be-

its own.

"That shade of blue," says a Russian man waiting in line for food, when asked to point to something distinctly Russian in the park, "it is very Russian." He is pointing to some bunting.

OK. What else? He looked around, and then shrugged. What is most exotic here might actually be the lines

If anything, this place looks faintly Soviet. The designers chose asphalt for the enormous grounds - or what looks exactly like asphalt, anyway - and there is nothing quite so Soviet as a bunch of inhumanely scaled buildings amid acres of parking.

The layout is simple. There is a handful of arenas, surrounding a huge oval. At one end of the oval is a stage, for medal ceremonies, live feeds and performances, and at the other is the Olympic flame, burning like a Zippo to the gods. Every Russian here has an iPhone or an iPad - another reason this place feels familiar - and the flame and its huge jet-tail cauldron has become selfie central.

You stand near the flame and look at, say, the Iceberg, the site of the figure skating competitions. It looks like a five-minute walk, tops.

So you head to Adler Arena, for some speedskating. On the way there, a jowly man in a dark suit stands still and scowls at you.

This happens a couple of times a day. The job of these guys, who dress like undertakers, is apparently to give you the stink eye. One assumes they are part of the security detail and have been trained to detect the gaze and manner of a terrorist, but nothing about their bearing invites questions.

Everyone else, particularly the volunteers, is friendly. You get the occasional "Nyet," and a brushoff, when you walk in the wrong door, but most people want to help. A woman at Adler Arena ushers you directly to your seat.

For \$51 billion - the reported cost of this insanely ambitious production - Vladimir Putin has put on a show. And for much of the day, and parts of the night, the main plaza is filled and the atmosphere jubilant. There are plenty of foreigners here, and you run into the occasional face-painted American. But they are a minority. Which, under the circumstances, seems fine. This overpriced party was bankrolled by Russians, whether they wanted it not. You are gratified to think that more than a few of them have shown up to enjoy it. □



The closed amusement park near Olympic Park in Sochi, Russia. The Sochi Games are either avidly catering to the West, and the U.S. in particular, or Russia has adopted American sports culture as its own.

(Chang W. Lee/The New York Times)

leave at 1:15, and it delivers on that promise, right down to the second.

The track, which links Olympic Park to the city of Sochi, about 20 miles away, is said to have cost \$8.7 billion in Russian treasure. That seems a preposterous sum, but you are not Russian, so it is not your treasure. And last Wednesday, the train carried thousands of grinning Olympic goers, delivering them with timing of a precision more associated with the Swiss. The masses strode into a cloudless, 62-degree afternoon, one of those exquisite days that feel like a preamble to summer.

When you first lay eyes on Olympic Park, next to the Black Sea, in what is called the coastal cluster, it looks like a Disneyland for corporations. That is because after descending from the train station, down flight after flight of stairs, you

people it is showtime? Are they taunting us? Is this an elaborate piece of performance art, or maybe raw material for a reality television show called "Watch People Gape in Dismay"?

You do not know. So you keep walking, and it is 10 minutes before you lay eyes on the Olympic venues, all of which are on the other side of a pedestrian bridge, divided into lanes, with flooring in shades borrowed from the Olympic rings.

Once you reach the other side, a profound realization dawns: Russia is desperately in need of change.

Not change in the abstract, drawing-board sense of the word. No, it needs change in the most literal sense. It needs small bills - a lot of small bills.

Try to buy a hot dog or pizza at one of the many stands dotted throughout Olympic Park. Time and again, you

cause the Olympics are, to some extent, a prefab conceit, and when you build a bunch of winter sports arenas in a self-contained area, a bit of homogeneity is unavoidable.

But it goes beyond that. At a women's hockey game, when a goal is scored, the song of choice is that "Woo Hoo" number by Blur. (OK, "Song 2" is the actual title.) During lulls, an old-timey organ plays ditties that will be familiar to anyone who has ever been to a baseball game. There is an oompah band at the speedskating arena, led by four blond women with batons, which performs "When the Saints Go Marching In." At night, a man will beat-box on a stage.

This Olympics is either avidly catering to the West, and the United States in particular, or Russia has adopted American sports culture as

for food, which are hopelessly chaotic and slow, but which are endured by Russians with total equanimity. (They drive everyone else insane.) Or maybe it is the "small rusks" offered in the vending machines, which are jellied-meat-flavored croutons.

For when you want jellied meat, without the jellied-meat fuss.

The natural setting, beyond Olympic Park, is plenty exotic. There really are, as promised, palm trees along the coast, though several of those near the venues are fake, with plastic fronds that appear to serve as a nest for surveillance devices. Look north, and you see the CinemaScope-ready Caucasus Mountains, topped with snow. On a warm day, you get the tickling sensation that you are living in two opposite seasons at once.